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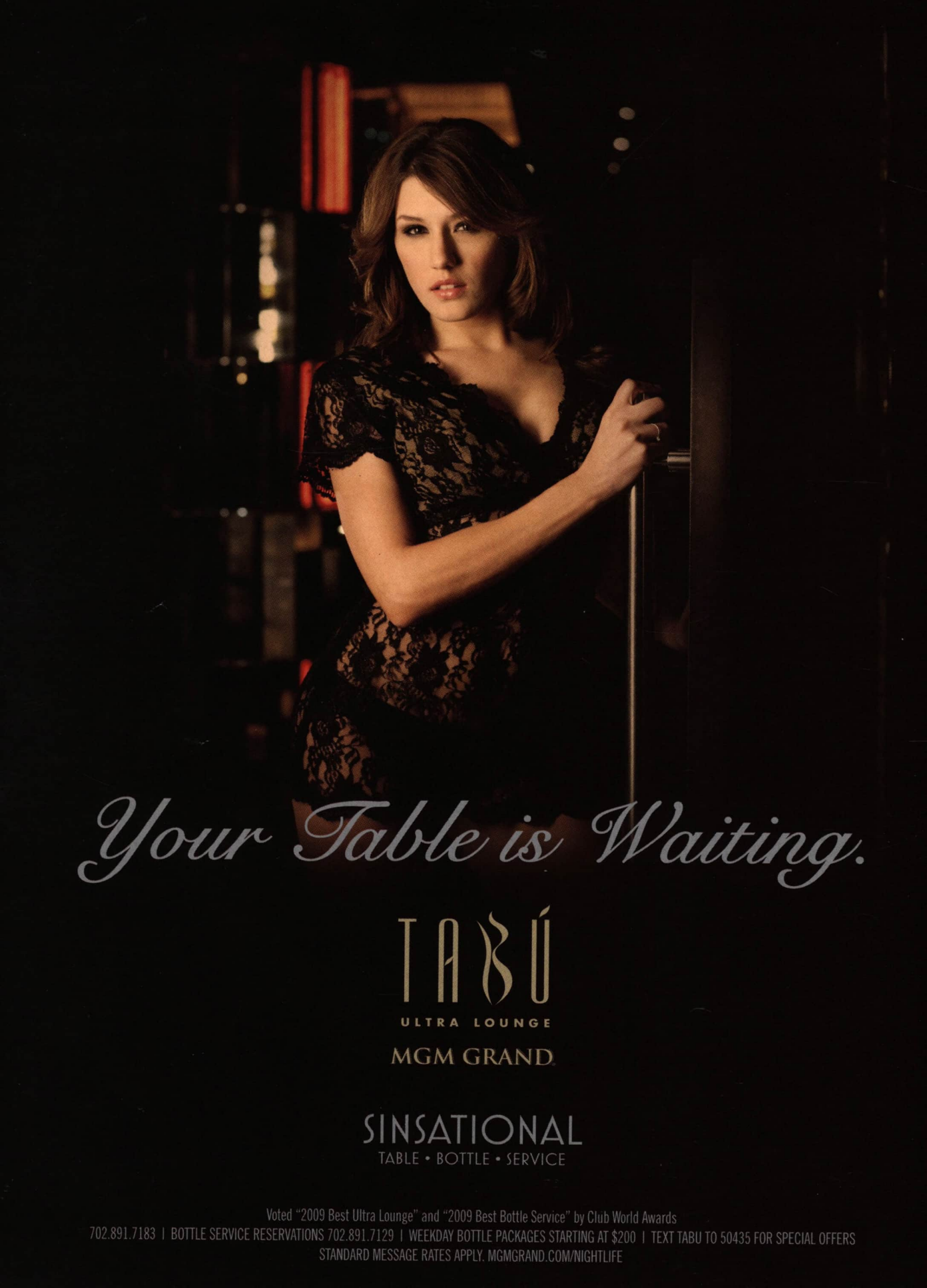
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Volume 89, No. 11 October 2010

The RING

Time To Dry Your Eyes

Okay, so Manny Pacquiao and Floyd Mayweather are not going to fight each other this year. Maybe they never will. Sure, it's a bummer and there's no doubt that it hurt the sport, especially among casual fans and the mainstream media. But when was the last time either of those two entities controlled the fate of boxing?

The truth is that for most of the latter half of the 20th century and the first decade of the 21st, it has been *boxing* fans, not *sports* fan, that have supported the Sweet Science. Furthermore, what's left of the so-called mainstream media has been gradually withdrawing from boxing over the same period of time.

Complicating the current situation is that the sport may very well have lost the services of Mayweather for the foreseeable future. Considering how gifted he is and how many fans he has, that's not a good thing. But it doesn't mean the world will stop turning—not even the boxing world.

Remember when Mike Tyson went to jail the first time? Don King was faced with carrying on for the next three years without his meal ticket. Tyson might not have been the "Baddest Man On The Planet" by then, but he was still the face of boxing and its reigning cash cow.

Instead of crawling under the covers and sucking his thumb, King quickly regrouped, plucked Julio Cesar Chavez out of his herd of faceless undercard fighters and made him a star. True, Chavez was already a helluva fighter and well-known to the cognoscenti, but, as far as the casual fan and mainstream media was concerned, he had a relatively low profile. And if it hadn't been for his magnificent fight with Meldrick Taylor in 1990, he would have had no mainstream profile at all.

Even so, between Tyson's last fight prior to incarceration and his first bout after being released, Chavez fought 22 times. And I'm not talking about club fights in Culiacan. He became a Las Vegas mainstay and, in 1993, drew 58,891 fans to the Alamodome for his bout with Pernell Whitaker and a staggering 136,274 to Estadio Azteca for his beatdown of Greg Haugen.

In a way, boxing is in better shape today than it was when Tyson was behind bars. At that time, there was no attraction equal to "Iron Mike." Today we have Pacquiao, who is at least on a par with Mayweather and, some would argue, even bigger.

It's tough to tell who among the current crop can compensate for whatever we might have lost in the Pacquiao-Mayweather circle jerk until one of them is given a big promotional push. But there are plenty of talented fighters out there who would love the opportunity to fill the void.

Meanwhile, as far as the rest of us are concerned, it is time to stop acting like a bunch of six-year olds who didn't get what they wanted for their birthday. Boxing fans need to be more like the fighters they admire—tough, resilient, and willing to pick themselves up and bounce back from disappointment.

Moreover, stop worrying about the casual fans and the mainstream media. They'll be back as soon as the next superfight comes along. What a lot of people don't understand is that boxing doesn't grow by occasionally attracting crossover fans. Real success comes by increasing the number of genuine boxing fans, and the best way to do that is with good fights.

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[Opening Shot]

There's A First Time For Everything

Heavyweight slugger David Tua suffers the first knockdown of his 56-fight pro career in the 12th round of his July 17 bout with Monte Barrett in Atlantic City, New Jersey. An ecstatic Barrett seems sure that he's scored an upset as referee Randy Neumann escorts him to a neutral corner. Unfortunately for "Two Gunz," he had to settle for a draw.

PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

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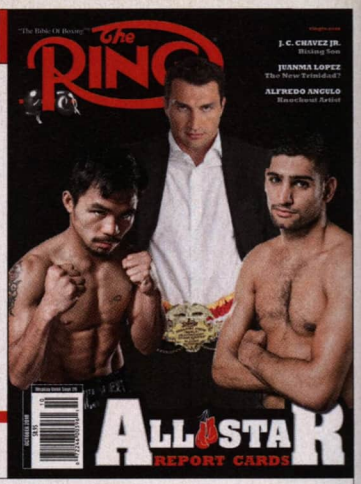

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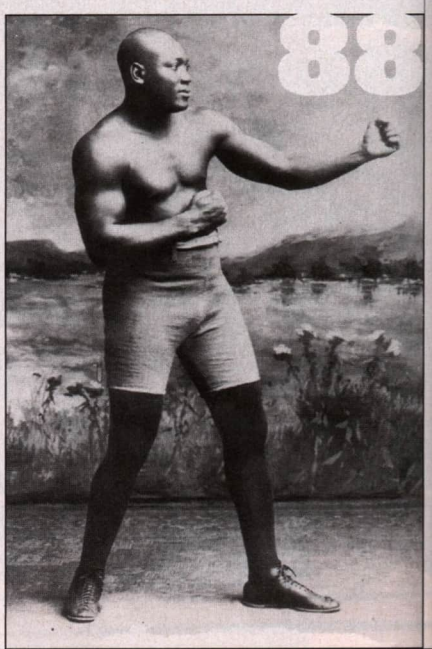

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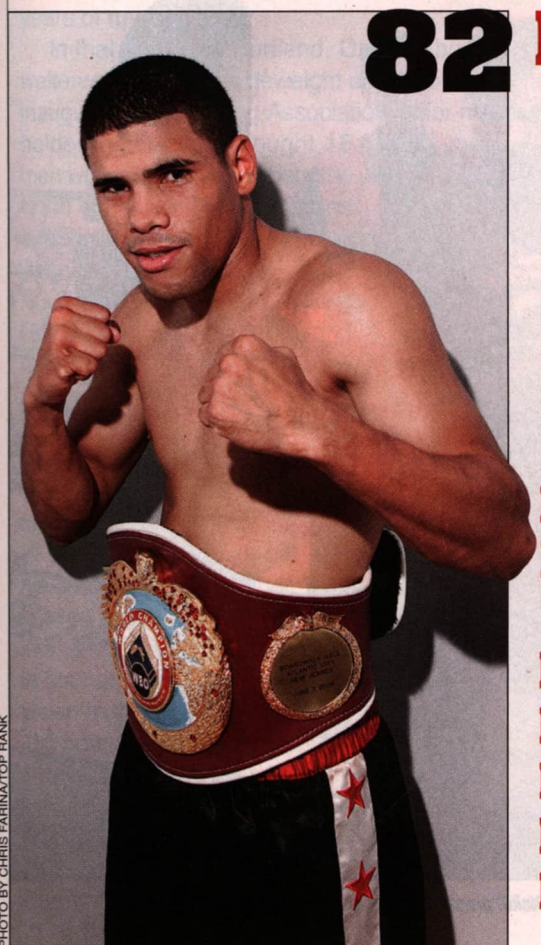

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Wonjongkam Gets His RING Belt

When Thailand's Pongsaklek Wonjongkam traveled to Tokyo in March 2010 to square off against undefeated Koki Kameda, he was well aware of the importance of the battle. Suffering another loss would mean contemplating retirement; a win would garner the vacant RING magazine flyweight world championship and ensure at least one or two more money fights.

Wonjongkam's 15-year career has been one of many cherished moments and a handful of painful defeats. The highlights include 17 successful defenses of the WBC flyweight title he won by knocking out Malcolm Tunacao on March 2, 2001. Among his better title-fight victims were previously undefeated Hussein Hussein (W 12) and Hidenobu Honda (W 12). He has had a four-bout series with Daisuke Naito, winning the first with a spectacular 34-second kayo in an April 2002 defense. He won the second via seventh-round technical decision but lost the WBC belt in their third encounter when Naito took the title with a 12-round decision.

"I had become complacent," said Wonjongkam, "and I took Naito for granted. Never again"

In their fourth bout, Wonjongkam came close to regaining the WBC crown but had to settle for a 12-round draw in March 2008.

Determined to prove he still belonged, the Thai found the old spark and began training with renewed vigor, doggedly fighting on against lesser opponents in an effort to regain his previous form before finally landing the Asian superfight with Kameda.

"My promoter [Virat Vachiratanawongse] told me Kameda was my last chance," said Wonjongkam. "So I knew I had to train hard and win. I was not prepared to stop fighting."

Scott Mallon (left), THE RING's Thailand correspondent and provincial governor M.L. Pannadda Diskul present Wonjongkam with championship belt

Wonjongkam outboxed the previously undefeated Kameda, beating the younger fighter to the punch and surprising Japanese fans en route to a close but deserved majority decision. The upset victory made Wonjongkam the first recipient of THE RING flyweight championship since the magazine launched its new championship policy in 2002. Ironically, the last flyweight champion recognized by THE RING was another Thai great, Sot Chitalada, in 1984.

Four months after beating Kameda, Wonjongkam was back in action for a tune-up fight against Rey Migreno of the Philippines. The fight took place on the outskirts of Bangkok in Nakorn Pathom, and Wonjongkam barely broke a sweat, demolishing the unworthy opponent in just 1:37 of the opening round and improving his record to 76-3-1 (40).

Winning THE RING belt was cover-worthy news in Thailand

Shortly after Migreno was hauled out of the ring, television viewers throughout Southeast Asia, approximately 1,200 fans on site, his promoter, a host of sponsors, and the governor of the city proudly watched as Wonjongkam was presented with THE RING belt.

"It makes me very happy to win THE RING championship, not only for myself but also for Thailand," said Wonjongkam. "I want people to know that I still have what it takes to be a champion."

Winning THE RING championship also put Wonjongkam on the cover of *Muay Lok*, Thailand's most popular weekly sports magazine.

The 32-year-old Wonjongkam now faces Suriyan Por Chokchai in October, and, if he wins, a fifth bout against Naito looms.

—Scott Mallon

Denny Moyer, 1939-2010

When he was 59-years-old, before the *pugilistica dementia* that eventually claimed his life stole his memories of it, Denny Moyer declared that the time he spent as a top-flight professional boxer from 1958 to 1975 was "the best 17 years of my life."

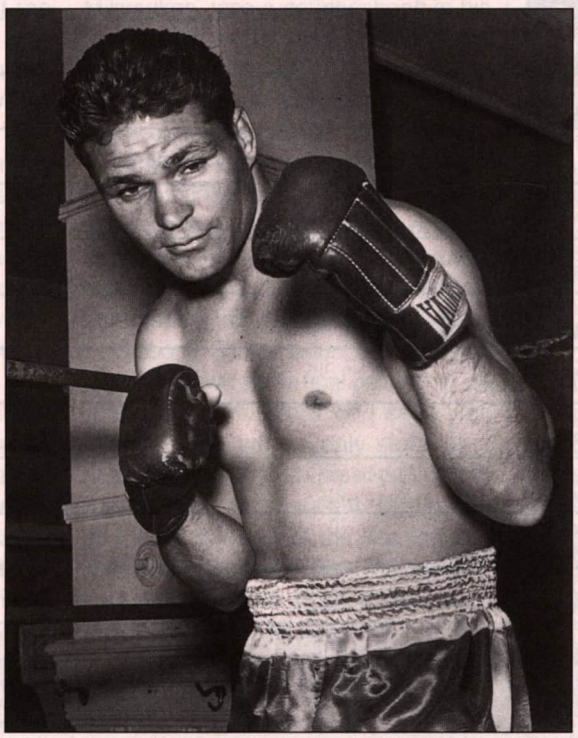
In that span, the Portland, Oregon, boxer fought for the welterweight and middleweight championships, became the inaugural World Boxing Association junior middleweight titleholder in 1962, and fought 15 men who were or would become world champions, including Don Jordan, Paddy DeMarco, Virgil Atkins, Tony DeMarco, Benny "Kid" Paret, Emile Griffith, Luis Rodriquez, Nino Benvenuti, and Carlos Monzon.

Moyer, who died at 70 on June 30, first put on boxing gloves about the time he first put on shoes. His dad, Harry, a top amateur in the Pacific Northwest in the 1930s, got Denny and his one-year-older brother, Phil, started when they were toddlers. At 16, Denny was runner-up in the national Amateur Athletic Union tournament. He won it at 156-pounds the next year.

When the undefeated Denny beat Gaspar Ortega in his Madison Square Garden debut, *New York Times* reporter William Conklin wrote that the 19-year-old Moyer "could pass for a choir boy if he wore a cassock instead of ring trunks."

Six months later, Moyer lost a bid for Jordan's 147-pound title. On October 20, 1962, he beat Joey Giambra for the WBA's new 154-pound title. After a successful defense against Stan Harrington, Moyer lost his belt to Ralph Dupas.

The Moyer brothers each won a decision over Sugar Ray Robinson in the early-1960s, but their dad didn't let it go to their heads. "You never fought the real Sugar Ray Robinson," Harry told them, "you fought an old man."



Moyer fought 15 men who were or would become world champions

As for himself, "I was more of a boxer than a puncher," Denny said. "I was not real fast, but I seemed to stay one step ahead."

He finished with a record of 95-38-4 (25) and, in 2001, was inducted into the World Boxing Hall of Fame.

When he was still able, Moyer looked back on his boxing career with justifiable pride and satisfaction. As for what came later, this ultimate professional probably would respond the way he did after his 1972 title fight against Monzon, which Moyer was winning until the referee stopped the fight after a questionable knockdown.

"I'm disgusted," he said, "but, after 125 fights, you don't cry."

—Pete Ehrmann

TV Fights of the Month

Compiled By Martin Mulcahey

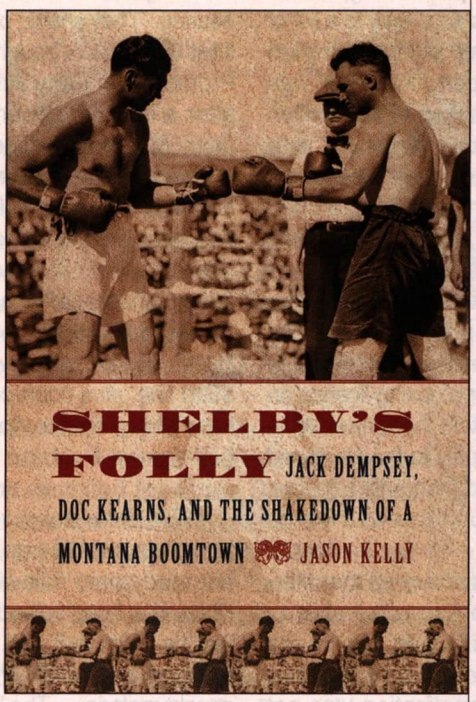
DATE	WINNER/LOSER	NETWORK	DIVISION	SIGNIFICANCE	MATCHUP	RESULT
6/24/10	Frankie Gomez KO 1 Jaime Orrantia *Another easy kayo for former amateur star*	FOX Sports	jw	C-	C-	C+
6/25/10	Pablo Cano W 10 Oscar Leon *Touted prospect nearly bucked by trialhorse in TV debut*	Telefutura	jw	C+	C	C+
6/26/10	Tomas Villa W 8 Salvador Sanchez *Famous name can sell tickets but cannot win fights*	PPV	f	C	B	C+
6/26/10	Raul Martinez KO 7 Gabriel Elizondo *Martinez beats up friend in hometown clash*	PPV	jb	B-	B	C+
6/26/10	Marco Antonio Barrera W 10 Adailton De Jesus *Win will not be featured in Barrera's HOF induction footage*	PPV	jw	B	C+	C
6/26/10	Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. W 10 John Duddy *It's no coincidence that Chavez' best performance is his first with Roach*	PPV	m	B	B+	C+
7/02/10	Demetrius Hopkins W 10 Mike Arnaoutis *A fight between East Coast boxers trying to maintain relevance*	ESPN2	w	C+	B	C+
7/03/10	Ulises Solis W 10 Eric Ortiz *Ortiz does well to survive two late knockdowns*	FOX Sports	jb	A-	C	C+
7/09/10	Erislandy Lara KO 1 William Correa *Last-minute replacement lasts two minutes*	Telefutura	jm	D	D	D
7/09/10	Mike Jones KO 5 Irving Garcia *Stoppage was literally and figuratively a low blow to Garcia*	Showtime	w	C+	C	C+
7/09/10	Lanardo Tyner KO 9 Antwone Smith *Upset artist upset*	Showtime	w	B-	B+	B-
7/09/10	John Molina KO 11 Henry Lundy *What do you call a boxer knocked out by a slugger he called "dumb?"*	ESPN2	l	B-	A-	B
7/10/10	Nonito Donaire KO 8 Hernan Marquez *Donaire plays with foe as a southpaw, stops him in orthodox stance*	HBO	jb	A-	B-	C+
7/10/10	Juan Manuel Lopez KO 2 Bernabe Concepcion *Despite suffering knockdown, "JuanMa" is calmest finisher in boxing*	HBO	f	B+	B	B+
7/16/10	Carlos Velasquez KO 5 Eduardo Arcos *Arcos shows he has a built-up record*	Telefutura	jl	C+	C+	C
7/16/10	Mike Dallas W 8 Lanard Lane *This Dallas might get a title before the Cowboys*	Showtime	jw	B-	B	C+
7/16/10	Shawn Porter W 10 Ray Robinson *Diminutive Porter keeps posting big results*	Showtime	jm	B-	B+	B-
7/16/10	Fernando Guerrero W 10 Ishe Smith *Hard-luck Smith losses another close fight to hyped prospect*	Showtime	m	B-	B+	B+
7/16/10	Zab Judah KO 3 Jose Armando Santa Cruz *Thirty-two-year-old trying to rebrand himself as a "mature" fighter*	ESPN2	jw	C+	C	C+
7/17/10	Fernando Montiel KO 3 Rafael Concepcion *The first easy opponent for Montiel since 2004!*	FOX Espanol	b	B-	C-	C+
7/16/10	Alfredo Angulo KO 1 Joachim Alcine *"Perro" is becoming boxing fans' best friend*	HBO	jm	B+	B-	B-
7/16/10	Timothy Bradley W 12 Luis Carlos Abregu *Has Bradley convinced you he can compete with Pacquiao and Mayweather?*	HBO	w	A-	B+	C+
7/22/10	Gary Russell KO 1 Mauricio Pastrana *Former Olympian packs 15-punch combination into 10 seconds*	FOX Sports	f	C	C	C+
7/22/10	Nestor Rocha KO 2 Benjamin Garcia *Bodyshot drops Garcia and his record below .500 mark*	FOX Sports	b	C+	D	C
7/23/10	Charles Huerta KO 6 Jonathan Arias *Golden Boy prospect finally has a good TV performance*	Telefutura	f	C	C	C+
7/23/10	Craig McEwan W 10 Danny Perez *McEwan battles through blood and punches to win a close decision*	Telefutura	m	B-	B+	B-
7/23/10	Beibut Shumenov W 12 Viacheslav Uzelkov *Uzelkov threw fewer punches than a pacifist at a peace rally*	ESPN2	lh	B	B	C+

Category Explanation: "Significance"—The importance of the bout to the division and the fighters' futures; "Matchup"—The quality of the fighters and the prefight determination of how their styles will mesh; "Result"—How the bout turned out, from the viewer's perspective.

(RING championship fights in **bold** type)

Division key: h—heavyweight; c—cruiserweight; lh—light heavyweight; sm—super middleweight; m—middleweight; jm—junior middleweight; w—welterweight; jw—junior welterweight; l—lightweight; jl—junior lightweight; f—featherweight; jf—junior featherweight; b—bantamweight; jb—junior bantamweight; fl—flyweight; jfl—junior flyweight; s—strawweight

Boxing Bookshelf



On a hot summer night in 1955, Jack Dempsey and Tommy Gibbons climbed into a ring in Milwaukee to "reenact" their famous heavyweight title match that put Shelby, Montana, on the boxing map 32 years earlier. "They swung mightily at each other," reported *The Milwaukee Journal* the next day, "but somehow every one of their punches landed on Jack Carson," the movie star from Milwaukee who ended the comedy in the second round by falling down and counting himself out.

Though their intentions in Shelby on July 4, 1923, were deadly serious, the circumstances surrounding the Dempsey-Gibbons title bout in the middle of nowhere were as burlesque in their own right, and Jason Kelly captures the carnival surrealism of it all in *Shelby's Folly: Jack Dempsey, Doc Kearns, And The Shakedown of a Montana Boomtown* (University of Nebraska Press, 214 pages, hardcover, $26.95).

The idea of hosting a heavyweight championship fight was originally a publicity stunt hatched by civic boosters in Shelby, 30 miles south of the Canadian border, to disprove the prediction of railroad magnate Peter Shelby, that the town named after him would "never amount to a damn."

They got the headlines they wanted, and they also got Jack "Doc" Kearns, Dempsey's manager, the flamboyant pirate who "told so many lies he lost track of the truth," who "put the ooze in schmooze," and who saw a whole state full of eager suckers begging to be fleeced and happily obliged.

The Montanans lapped up his con like boozers at an open bar. "Kearns was never more in his element than under the Big Sky," writes Kelly. "His lies were not out of place in that land of wild dreams. Men of action also populated Montana, and they would not have tolerated talk alone for long, but Kearns knew the smoke from his departing locomotive would have wafted away by then."

And with it enough money—$200,000-plus—to bankrupt the wannabe "Tulsa Of The West" by the time the fight was over.

It was Dempsey's first fight in two years. His challenger, the capable but colorless Gibbons, was a decent man who, when he and Dempsey reunited in Milwaukee, was a county sheriff in his native Minnesota and would give his autograph to any kid who wanted it in exchange for the kid's signature on a "good citizenship pledge."

While he lost the decision in Shelby after 15 rounds, says Kelly, "Gibbons provided the crowd with a modicum of pride, standing up to the champion like no other boxer had, a proxy for the preposterous dreams that this spectacle represented ... Gibbons, Shelby's stunt double, stood up for the town to the final bell."

It's a colorful, rollicking saga well told by Kelly, whose only stumble is his assertion that Dempsey-Gibbons was the first heavyweight title fight to go the distance since the Jim Jeffries-Tom Sharkey bout in 1899. Philadelphia Jack O'Brien, Tony Ross, Al Kaufman, and Frank Moran all heard the final bell against champion Jack Johnson, and Moran also hung in there against Jess Willard.

—Pete Ehrmann

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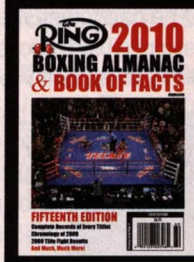

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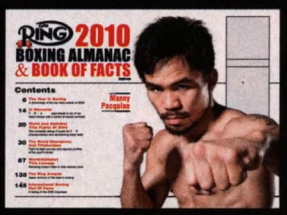

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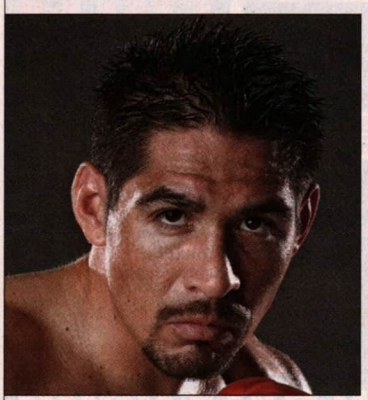
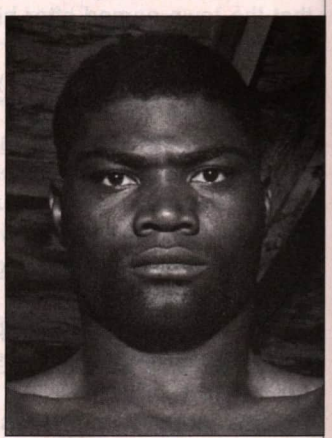
Outside the Ropes

Manny Pacquiao, boxing's pound-for-pound king, is also among the world's top-earning sports stars according to a list of today's top-20 highest-earning international athletes compiled by *Sports Illustrated*. According to the report, "Pac-Man" was the fifth-highest international earner, hauling in $38-million in 2009. Tennis star **Roger Federer** topped the list with $61.7-million in earnings. On the American side of top-earning athletes, **Floyd Mayweather** ranked third with $60,250,000 in earnings behind number-one **Tiger Woods**, who made $90,508,163 in '09 ... **Carl Froch** and his girlfriend, **Rachael Cordingley,** welcomed son **Rocco** on July 1 ... British promoter **Frank Maloney** signed a new two-year contract with Sky Sports ... The Nevada State Athletic Commission opted not to accept **Antonio Margarito**'s application for a boxing license on July 9, voting 4-1 to table it. The NSAC told the former WBA welterweight titlist that he had to first reapply to the California State Athletic Commission, which revoked Margarito's license following his January 24, 2009, ninth-round knockout loss to **Shane Mosley,** when it was discovered that Margarito had attempted to illegally pad his hands before the fight. Margarito's application was not accepted, though it was not officially denied. If it was formally denied, Margarito could not apply for a boxing license in Nevada until 2011. "I think [Margarito] needs to go to California and clean this matter up," commissioner **Raymond Avansino** said during the hearing. "They should be the first to rule" ... WBA middleweight titlist **Felix Sturm** bought out his contract with Universum Box-Promotion in early July. "I'm now a free man," said Sturm after a Hamburg court ruled Sturm could pay $1.2-million (950,000 euros) and go his separate way. Sturm is expected to return to the ring on September 4 at the Lanxess Arena (formerly known as Kolnarena) in Cologne, Germany, against an opponent yet to be named ... IBF junior middleweight titlist **Cory Spinks** pleaded no contest in early-July to a drunk driving charge, after he smashed into a parked car in April. Spinks received 12-months probation for drunk driving in Vero Beach, Florida, along with 200 hours of community service, a $500 fine, plus court costs over $4,000 in restitution. Spinks hasn't fought since April 2009 when he won the vacant IBF belt against **Deandre Latimore** but was scheduled to fight **Cornelius Bundrage** on **Don King**'s August 7 card in St. Louis ... WBA junior welterweight champ **Amir Khan** was released from Beaumont Hospital in Bolton, England on July 7 and returned home following fears he had contracted malaria. Khan was hospitalized July 4 after complaining to his family that he didn't feel well. Khan had just returned from vacation in Egypt and South Africa, which stirred fears he may have caught malaria ... The legendary **Blue Horizon** in Philadelphia, once described by THE RING as "the best place in the world to see a fight" was shut down indefinitely in June for failure to pay taxes for years ... Scottish boxing promoter **Barry Hughes** was detained on July 14 by Strathclyde police and faced possible charges of money laundering and mortgage fraud ... Police investigating the death of **Mark Warren**, the 43-year-old brother of British boxing promoter **Frank Warren**, ruled out foul play. Mark Warren died from multiple injuries after falling from a fifth-floor flat on July 16. Police stated no suicide note was found nor any witnesses that saw the fall ... Hard-hitting, former heavyweight contender **Mac Foster**, 68, died of congestive heart failure on July 17 in Fresno, California. Foster turned pro on November 29, 1966, and rattled off 24 consecutive knockout victories before getting knocked out by **Jerry Quarry** in the sixth round of a June 1970 bout at Madison Square Garden. Foster bounced back with four wins, including a first-round kayo of **Zora Folley**, to earn a non-tile fight with **Muhammad Ali** in '72, which Ali won via 15-round decision. After losing four of his next six bouts, Foster retired in '76 with an overall record of 30-6 (30) ... South Korean junior bantamweight **Bae Ki-suk**, 23, died July 21 after falling unconscious following a TKO loss to **Jung Jin-ki** on July 17. Bae debuted in 2003 and had a 7-7 (5) record.



Margarito: NSAC tables license request



Foster: Dead at age 68

Quotable

"I'm really souring on the heavyweights. There doesn't seem to be any interest in the US, and there doesn't seem to be any heavyweights besides David Haye who would have any juice in challenging the Klitschkos. We're out of the heavyweight division. We're not playing in that sandbox right now. It doesn't make any sense for us. The fights happen over there [in Europe], they're on tape delay. There is just very little interest in this country."

— HBO Sports President Ross Greenburg on why Wladimir and Vitali Klitschko's title defenses over the last few years have not been shown on HBO.

"Let's just laugh it off. He may not have been himself when he said that."

—Manny Pacquiao graciously responding to a tirade from Floyd Mayweather Sr. in which he called Pacquiao "a little Filipino midget" and "the biggest faggot on the planet."

[Ratings Analysis]

For Period Ended July 25, 2010

Heavyweights: No changes.
Cruiserweights: Denis Lebedev (seventh last issue) moves to six following a second-round knockout of Alexander Alexeev. Lebedev's move up pushes down Danny Green (sixth last issue) to seven.
Light Heavyweights: Beibut Shumenov debuts at eight following a decision victory over Viacheslav Uzelkov (sixth last issue), who exits. Shumenov's inclusion coupled with Uzelkov's departure bumps up Adrian Diaconu (seventh last issue) and Karo Murat (eighth last issue) one place each.
Super Middleweights: No changes.
Middleweights: No changes.
Junior Middleweights: Joachim Alcine (eighth last issue) departs after getting blown out in the first round by number-three contender Alfredo Angulo. Alcine's exit elevates Vanes Martirosyan (ninth last issue) and Sergei Dzinziruk (10th last issue) one position each and allows Saul Alvarez to enter at 10.
Welterweights: Tim Bradley's victory over Luis Carlos Abregu in his first welterweight bout earned him 10 and made "Desert Storm" a rare two-division contender, at welterweight and junior welterweight. Bradley's inclusion forces out Selcuk Aydin (10th last issue).
Junior Welterweights: World champion Manny Pacquiao vacates the title, as "Pac-Man" promised he would in a commitment to THE RING, if his next fight was not at 140. Instead, Pacquiao will take on Antonio Margarito at a catchweight of 150 in November
Lightweights: No changes.
Junior Lightweights: No changes.
Featherweights: Bernabe Concepcion (sixth last issue) drops to nine after his lopsided loss to number-two contender Juan Manuel Lopez. Concepcion's demotion pushes up Yuriorkis Gamboa (seventh last issue), Elio Rojas (eighth last issue), and Daniel Ponce De Leon (ninth last issue) each one rung each, respectively.
Junior Featherweights: Kohei Oba (ninth last issue) drops out after a decision loss to veteran Malcolm Tunacao at bantamweight. Oba's exit allows Masaaki Serie (10th last issue) to move to nine and Akifumi Shimoda to debut at 10.
Bantamweights: No changes.
Junior Bantamweights: Nonito Donaire (seventh last issue) helped himself with an eighth-round stoppage of Hernan Marquez, switching places with Kohie Kono (sixth last issue) based on activity and quality of opposition.
Flyweights: No changes.
Junior Flyweights: Ramon Hirales debuts at 10, replacing Johnriel Casimero (10th last issue), who Hirales beat by decision.
Strawweights: No changes.
Pound-for-Pound: There is a slight change at the top, with Pacquiao moving out of junior welterweight and being classified solely at welterweight, though it has to be noted his November 13 fight with Antonio Margarito is at 150-pound, just three pounds over the 147-pound welterweight limit.

There was a significant change at the bottom of the pound-for-pound ratings, with number-one bantamweight contender Fernando Montiel pushing out featherweight Celestino Caballero from 10. Caballero hasn't been very active, while Montiel is coming off a highly impressive third-round knockout of Rafael Concepcion. Montiel has not only been active, but he also has a strong back record of victories over Hozumi Hasegawa, Z Gorres, and Luis Maldonado.

The RING
"THE BIBLE OF BOXING"

Pound-For-Pound

1. **Manny Pacquiao**
   Welterweight
2. **Floyd Mayweather**
   Welterweight
3. **Juan Manuel Marquez**
   Lightweight
4. **Nonito Donaire**
   Junior Bantamweight
5. **Shane Mosley**
   Welterweight
6. **Chad Dawson**
   Light Heavyweight
7. **Paul Williams**
   Middleweight
8. **Sergio Martinez**
   Junior Middle/Middleweight
9. **Pongsaklek Wonjongkam**
   Flyweight
10. **Fernando Montiel**
    Bantamweight

For weekly updated Ring ratings, go to **ringtv.com**

The Ring Ratings

For Period Ended July 25, 2010

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

Fighters recognized as champions by The Ring are rated at the top of their division, with the top 10 contenders listed below.

Championship vacancies can be filled by winning a box-off between The Ring's number-one and number-two contenders, or, in certain instances, a box-off between our number-one and number-three contenders.

The only three occasions when a fighter will lose his championship status are when he retires, moves to another weight division, or is defeated in a championship bout.

The Ring Ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board, with the participation of The Ring Ratings Panel of boxing journalists from around the world. To see the complete list of our panelists, click on "Ratings" at ringtv.com.

Records provided by boxrec.com.

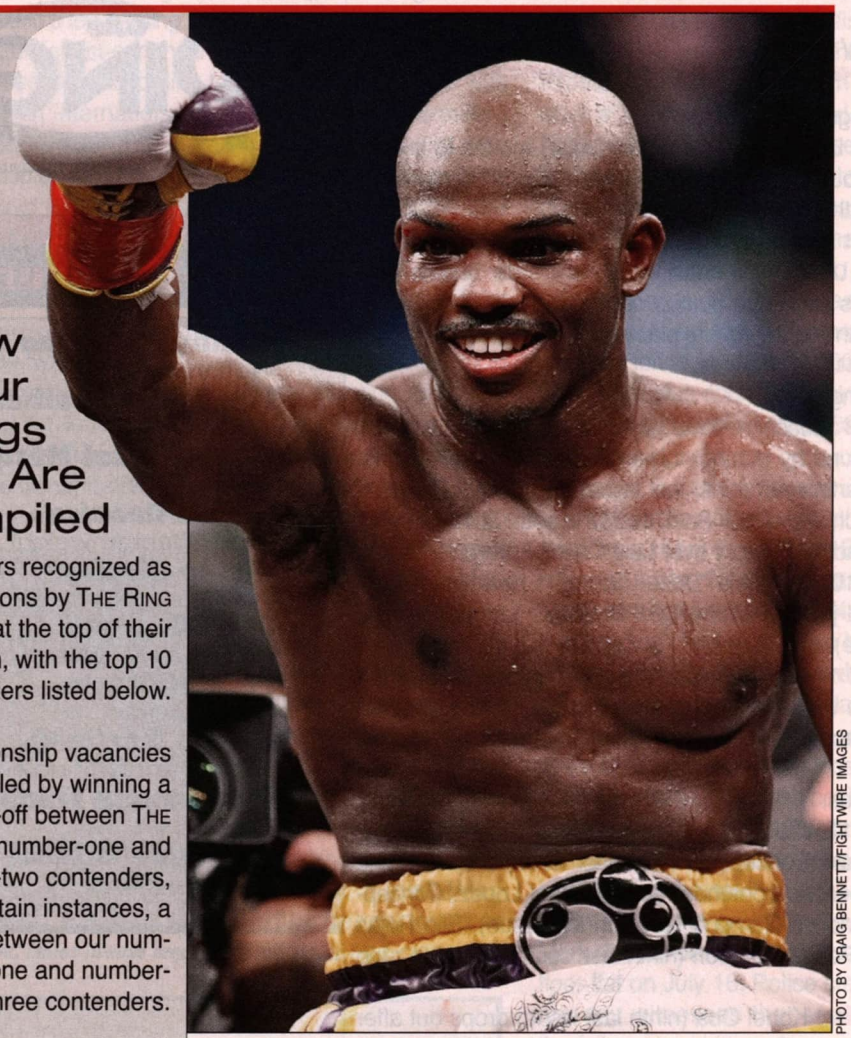


PHOTO BY CRAIG BENNETT/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Tim Bradley became a rare two-division contender joining the welterweights after beating Luis Carlos Abregu

Heavyweights

Weight Unlimited

Champ: WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
Ukraine 54-3 (48)

1. **VITALI KLITSCHKO**
Ukraine 40-2 (38)
2. **DAVID HAYE**
England 24-1 (22)
3. **ALEXANDER POVETKIN**
Russia 19-0 (14)
4. **TOMASZ ADAMEK**
Poland 41-1 (27)
5. **RUSLAN CHAGAEV**
Uzbekistan 26-1-1 (17)
6. **EDDIE CHAMBERS**
Philadelphia, PA 35-2 (18)
7. **DENIS BOYTSOV**
Russia 27-0 (22)
8. **NICOLAY VALUEV**
Russia 50-2 (34)
9. **ALEXANDER DIMITRENKO**
Ukraine 29-1 (19)
10. **CHRIS ARREOLA**
Riverside, CA 28-2 (25)

Jr. Middleweights

Weight Limit: 154 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **SERGIO MARTINEZ**
Argentina 45-2-2 (24)
2. **KERMIT CINTRON**
Reading, PA 32-3-1 (28)
3. **ALFREDO ANGULO**
Mexico 19-1 (16)
4. **MIGUEL COTTO**
Puerto Rico 35-2 (28)
5. **RYAN RHODES**
England 44-4 (30)
6. **SECHEW POWELL**
Brooklyn, NY 26-2 (15)
7. **YURI FOREMAN**
Belarus 28-1 (8)
8. **VANES MARTIROSYAN**
Armenia 28-0 (17)
9. **SERGIY DZINZIRUK**
Ukraine 37-0 (23)
10. **SAUL ALVAREZ**
Mexico 33-0-1 (25)

Featherweights

Weight Limit: 126 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **CHRIS JOHN**
Indonesia 43-0-2 (22)
2. **JUAN MANUEL LOPEZ**
Puerto Rico 29-0 (26)
3. **ORLANDO SALIDO**
Mexico 34-10-2 (22)
4. **CRISTOBAL CRUZ**
Mexico 39-12-2 (23)
5. **STEVEN LUEVANO**
La Puente, CA 37-2-1 (15)
6. **YURIORKIS GAMBOA**
Cuba 18-0 (15)
7. **ELIO ROJAS**
Dominican Republic 22-1 (13)
8. **DANIEL PONCE DE LEON**
Mexico 39-2 (32)
9. **BERNABE CONCEPCION**
Philippines 28-4-1 (15)
10. **RAFAEL MARQUEZ**
Mexico 39-5 (35)

Jr. Featherweights

Weight Limit: 122 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **POONSAWAT KRATINGDAENGGYM**
Thailand 41-1 (29)
2. **TOSHIAKI NISHIOKA**
Japan 36-4-3 (23)
3. **STEVE MOLITOR**
Canada 32-1 (12)
4. **RICARDO CORDOBA**
Panama 37-2-2 (23)
5. **JEFF MATHEBULA**
South Africa 23-2-2 (13)
6. **RENDALL MUNROE**
England 21-1 (9)
7. **SATOSHI HOSONO**
Japan 16-1 (12)
8. **WILFREDO VAZQUEZ JR.**
Puerto Rico 19-0-1 (16)
9. **MASAAKI SERIE**
Japan 15-4 (6)
10. **AKIFUMI SHIMODA**
Japan 21-2-1 (10)

Bantamweights

Weight Limit: 118 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **FERNANDO MONTIEL**
Mexico 42-3-1 (32)
2. **ANSELMO MORENO**
Panama 29-1-1 (10)
3. **HOZUMI HASEGAWA**
Japan 28-3 (12)
4. **YONNHY PEREZ**
Colombia 20-0-1 (14)
5. **ABNER MARES**
Mexico 20-0-1 (13)
6. **JOSEPH AGBEKO**
Ghana 27-2 (22)
7. **NEHOMAR CERMENO**
Venezuela 19-1 (11)
8. **SASHA BAKHTIN**
Russia 25-0 (11)
9. **ERIC MOREL**
Madison, WI 42-2 (21)
10. **MICHAEL DOMINGO**
Philippines 40-14-2 (18)

Cruiserweights
Weight Limit: 200 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **STEVE CUNNINGHAM** Philadelphia, PA 23-2 (12)
2. **KRZYSZTOF WLODARCZYK** Poland 42-2-1 (32)
3. **MARCO HUCK** Yugoslavia 29-1 (22)
4. **TROY ROSS** Canada 23-2 (16)
5. **ZSOLT ERDEI** Hungary 31-0 (17)
6. **DENIS LEBEDEV** Russia 21-0 (16)
7. **DANNY GREEN** Australia 30-3 (27)
8. **GIACOBBE FRAGOMENI** Italy 26-3-1 (10)
9. **OLA AFOLABI** England 14-2-3 (6)
10. **MATT GODFREY** Providence, RI 20-1 (10)

Light Heavyweights
Weight Limit: 175 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **CHAD DAWSON** New Haven, CT 29-0 (17)
2. **GLEN JOHNSON** Jamaica 50-13-2 (34)
3. **JEAN PASCAL** Haiti 25-1 (16)
4. **BERNARD HOPKINS** Philadelphia, PA 51-5-1 (32)
5. **TAVORIS CLOUD** Tallahassee, FL 20-0 (18)
6. **ADRIAN DIACONU** Romania 26-2 (15)
7. **KARO MURAT** Iraq 21-0 (13)
8. **BEIBUT SHUMENOV** Kazakhstan 10-1 (6)
9. **NATHAN CLEVERLY** Wales 19-0 (9)
10. **CHRIS HENRY** Houston, TX 25-2 (20)

Super Middleweights
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **LUCIAN BUTE** Romania 26-0 (21)
2. **ANDRE WARD** Oakland, CA 22-0 (13)
3. **MIKKEL KESSLER** Denmark 43-2 (32)
4. **CARL FROCH** England 26-1 (21)
5. **SAKIO BIKA** Cameroon 28-3-2 (19)
6. **ANDRE DIRRELL** Flint, MI 19-1 (13)
7. **ARTHUR ABRAHAM** Armenia 31-1 (25)
8. **ROBERT STIEGLITZ** Germany 38-2 (23)
9. **LIBRADO ANDRADE** Mexico 29-3 (22)
10. **BRIAN MAGEE** Northern Ireland 33-3-1 (23)

Middleweights
Weight Limit: 160 pounds

Champ: SERGIO MARTINEZ Argentina 45-2-2 (24)

1. **FELIX STURM** Germany 33-2-1 (14)
2. **PAUL WILLIAMS** Augusta, GA 39-1 (27)
3. **KELLY PAVLIK** Youngstown, OH 36-2 (32)
4. **SEBASTIAN SYLVESTER** Germany 33-3-1 (16)
5. **KHOREN GEVOR** Armenia 31-4 (16)
6. **MATTHEW MACKLIN** England 26-2 (18)
7. **ANTHONY MUNDINE** Australia 39-3 (23)
8. **DANIEL GEALE** Australia 22-1 (13)
9. **SEBASTIAN ZBIK** Germany 29-0 (10)
10. **ROMAN KARMAZIN** Russia 40-3-2 (26)

Welterweights
Weight Limit: 147 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER** Grand Rapids, MI 41-0 (25)
2. **MANNY PACQUIAO** Philippines 51-3-2 (38)
3. **ANDRE BERTO** Winter Haven, FL 26-0 (20)
4. **SHANE MOSLEY** Pomona, CA 46-6 (39)
5. **MIGUEL COTTO** Puerto Rico 35-2 (28)
6. **JOSHUA CLOTTEY** Ghana 35-4 (20)
7. **RAFAL JACKIEWICZ** Poland 36-8-1 (18)
8. **JAN ZAVECK** Slovenia 29-1 (17)
9. **VYACHESLAV SENCHENKO** Ukraine 30-0 (20)
10. **TIMOTHY BRADLEY** Palm Springs, CA 26-0 (11)

Jr. Welterweights
Weight Limit: 140 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **TIMOTHY BRADLEY** Palm Springs, CA 26-0 (11)
2. **DEVON ALEXANDER** St. Louis, MO 20-0 (13)
3. **AMIR KHAN** England 23-1 (17)
4. **MARCOS MAIDANA** Argentina 28-1 (27)
5. **JUAN URANGO** Colombia 22-3-1 (17)
6. **KAIZER MABUZA** South Africa 23-6-3 (14)
7. **ANDREAS KOTELNIK** Ukraine 31-3-1 (13)
8. **PAUL MALIGNAGGI** Brooklyn, NY 27-4 (5)
9. **MIKE ALVARADO** Denver, CO 27-0 (19)
10. **LAMONT PETERSON** Washington, D.C. 28-1 (14)

Lightweights
Weight Limit: 135 pounds

Champ: JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ Mexico 50-5-1 (37)

1. **MICHAEL KATSIDIS** Australia 27-2 (22)
2. **ALI FUNEKA** South Africa 30-3-3 (25)
3. **MIGUEL ACOSTA** Venezuela 27-9-2 (21)
4. **HUMBERTO SOTO** Mexico 52-7-2 (32)
5. **ANTHONY PETERSON** Washington, DC 30-0 (19)
6. **PAULUS MOSES** Namibia 25-1 (17)
7. **JOHN MURRAY** England 29-0 (17)
8. **ROBERT GUERRERO** Gilroy, CA 26-1-1 (18)
9. **URBANO ANTILLON** Mexico 28-1 (20)
10. **BRANDON RIOS** Oxnard, CA 24-0-1 (18)

Jr. Lightweights
Weight Limit: 130 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **MZONKE FANA** South Africa 29-4 (12)
2. **ROMAN MARTINEZ** Puerto Rico 24-0-1 (15)
3. **MALCOLM KLASSEN** South Africa 24-5-2 (15)
4. **CASSIUS BALOYI** South Africa 37-4-1 (19)
5. **TAKASHI UCHIYAMA** Japan 15-0 (12)
6. **JUAN CARLOS SALGADO** Mexico 22-1-1 (16)
7. **JORGE SOLIS** Mexico 39-2-2 (28)
8. **JORGE LINARES** Venezuela 28-1 (18)
9. **VITALI TAJBERT** Kazakhstan 20-1 (6)
10. **ARGENIS MENDEZ** Dominican Republic 16-1 (9)

Jr. Bantamweights
Weight Limit: 115 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **VIC DARCHINYAN** Armenia 35-2-1 (27)
2. **HUGO CAZARES** Mexico 32-6-2 (23)
3. **SIMPHIWE NONGQAYI** South Africa 16-0-1 (6)
4. **NOBUO NASHIRO** Japan 13-2-1 (8)
5. **ALEXANDER MUNOZ** Venezuela 34-3 (27)
6. **NONITO DONAIRE** Philippines 24-1 (16)
7. **KOHEI KONO** Japan 25-4 (9)
8. **DAIGO NAKAHIRO** Japan 21-2-1 (8)
9. **DRIAN FRANCISCO** Philippines 19-0-1 (15)
10. **OMAR NARVAEZ** Argentina 32-0-2 (19)

Flyweights
Weight Limit: 112 pounds

Champ: PONGSAKLEK WONJONGKAM Thailand 76-3-1 (40)

1. **KOKI KAMEDA** Japan 23-1 (15)
2. **DAISUKE NAITO** Japan 36-3-3 (23)
3. **DAIKI KAMEDA** Japan 17-2 (11)
4. **DENKAOSAN KAOVICHIT** Thailand 50-2-1 (20)
5. **TAKEFUMI SAKATA** Japan 36-5-2 (17)
6. **LUIS CONCEPCION** Panama 20-1 (15)
7. **MORUTI MTHALANE** South Africa 25-2 (16)
8. **ZOLANI TETE** South Africa 12-0 (11)
9. **CESAR SEDA** Puerto Rico 18-0 (14)
10. **JULIO CESAR MIRANDA** Mexico 32-5-1 (25)

Jr. Flyweights
Weight Limit: 108 pounds

Champ: IVAN CALDERON Puerto Rico 34-0-1 (6)

1. **GIOVANNI SEGURA** Mexico 24-1-1 (20)
2. **OMAR NINO** Mexico 29-3-2 (11)
3. **RODEL MAYOL** Philippines 26-5-2 (20)
4. **EDGAR SOSA** Mexico 38-6 (22)
5. **LUIS ALBERTO LAZARTE** Argentina 47-9-1 (18)
6. **CARLOS TAMARA** Colombia 21-5 (15)
7. **BRIAN VILORIA** Waipahu, HI 27-3 (15)
8. **ULISES SOLIS** Mexico 31-2-2 (21)
9. **JUAN CARLOS REVECO** Argentina 25-1 (15)
10. **RAMON HIRALES** Mexico 13-1-1 (8)

Strawweights
Weight Limit: 105 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **ROMAN GONZALEZ** Nicaragua 25-0 (21)
2. **OLEYDONG SITHSAMERCHAI** Thailand 34-0 (12)
3. **NKOSINATHI JOYI** South Africa 21-0 (15)
4. **RAUL GARCIA** Mexico 27-1-1 (16)
5. **DONNIE NIETES** Philippines 26-1-3 (15)
6. **FLORANTE CONDES** Philippines 23-5-1 (20)
7. **JUAN PALACIOS** Nicaragua 26-3 (21)
8. **MUHAMMAD RACHMAN** Indonesia 62-8-5 (31)
9. **KATSUNARI TAKAYAMA** Japan 23-4 (9)
10. **YASUTAKA KUROKI** Japan 23-4-1 (15)

By Jeff Ryan

Bros And Cons

There's only one heavyweight pairing that would qualify as a superfight, only one battle that would excite devotees of boxing's alleged glamour division, just one shootout that would raise eyebrows and pulse rates and, as pro wrestling legend Dusty Rhodes always liked to say, make your back crack and your liver quiver. It's Wladimir Klitschko, the heavyweight champion, vs. Vitali Klitschko, his number-one contender.

Which brother is the baddest mother? We'll never know, because the bout that has everything going for it has no chance of happening. You'll see George Foreman tone up the man boobs, don a hairpiece a la Rocky Marciano, and battle Larry Holmes in a computer fight broadcast in movie theaters before you'll see the two Ukrainians play a game of chicken (Kiev). Heck, you'll see Manny Pacquiao add 20 more pounds and turn the "Super Six" into the "Magnificent Seven" before the Klitschko's sibling rivalry is ever settled with violence.

That's the problem with a sport in which the objective is to whack your opponent in what—depending on his defensive skills—is either a somewhat unprotected or a completely unprotected mug. This isn't Serena and Venus Williams attacking each other with a fury because they know the worst that can happen is someone going home with a bruise from a misplaced overhead smash. It isn't a helmeted and padded Ronde Barber drilling his helmeted and padded twin brother, Tiki, when their NFL teams squared off. On other playing fields, when the opponent is hurt, you back off and summon the trainer. In boxing, you step up the attack and try to hurt him worse.

Of course, the Klitschkos being the Klitschkos, you wonder if a fight between them would ever be legitimate anyway. There has always been a bit of a disingenuous quality to those two, something that's hard to put my finger on, but probably first came to mind when Vitali kept changing the pronunciation of his first name. It's easy to imagine a Wladimir-Vitali

PHOTO BY LARS BARON/BONGARTS/GETTY IMAGES

Regrettably, this is as hostile as the Klitschkos get with each other in the ring

PHOTO BY GLYN KIRK/ATP/GETTY IMAGES

The Williams sisters won't walk away with split lips and bloody noses after playing each other

battle being more carefully scripted than the action in *Iron Man 2*. The winner would probably be the guy who needed the victory most.

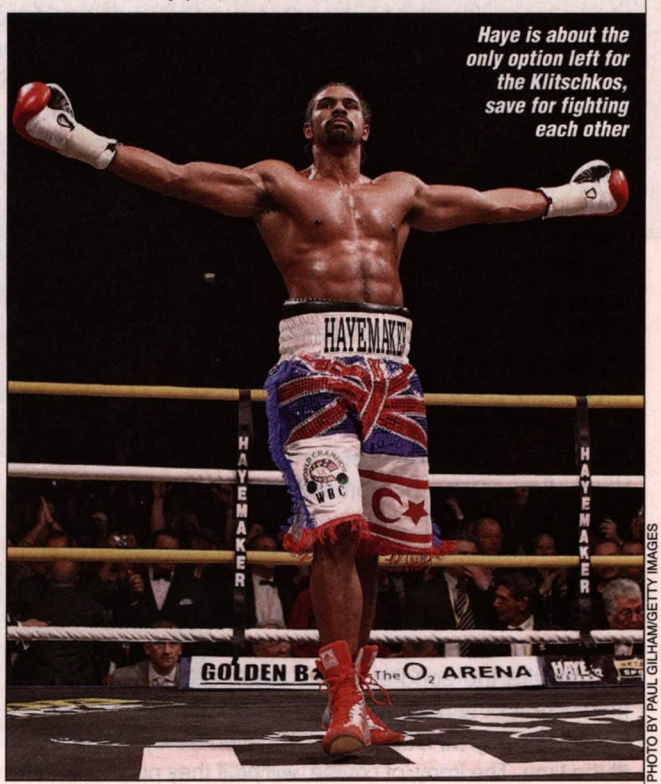
But because we won't ever have to worry about that, the Klitschko Brothers will almost certainly have to worry about something else: their closing acts. Obviously, they're not going anywhere just yet. And either one would be favored against *any* opponent, even David Haye. (More about him later.) But Vitali just turned 39 and Wladimir will be 35 in March. They're certainly a lot closer to the exit than the entrance.

The Klitschkos have already fulfilled more wishes than most fighters dare to have. They're healthy, wealthy, and wise, have assured themselves of wall space side-by-side in Canastota, and are absolute rock stars in Europe. But in the harsh light of history, and maybe even in their own minds, something could end up missing.

No matter how many European venues they pack or top-10 contenders they expose as inferior, neither Wlad nor Vitali have that eye-popping, tell-the-grandkids-about-it-forever win on the ledger. (Vitali might have been on his way had his eyebrow not opened up against Lennox Lewis in 2003.) They've cleaned out the weight class a couple of times over and even avenged each other's losses on a few occasions, but there's no superstar name on either resume.

Which brings us to Haye. While he's got limited heavyweight credentials, he hits very hard and is intriguing enough to make a showdown against either Klitschko one of the most anticipated fights of the year. But despite the talk, Haye has shown no real inclination to actually exchange pain with the boys from the Ukraine. Should he ever actually get in the ring and pull off an upset, a rematch would be huge, and a chance for the defeated Klitschko to garner that special, score-settling victory the historians just love. But that's a longshot.

Home Box Office, which previously served as the most Klitschko-friendly place this side of a German soccer stadium,



Haye is about the only option left for the Klitschkos, save for fighting each other

PHOTO BY PAUL GILHAM/GETTY IMAGES

Personal Perceptions:

To some of us, boxing is just like a candy store. With that in mind, here's the last word on everything from snickers to an Eminem:

• How does Bob Arum manage to keep a straight face when he continues to insist that Antonio Margarito didn't have plaster in his handwraps when he was busted in the dressing room before the Shane Mosley fight? So what was in Margarito's gloves that night? Cotton candy?

• Everyone knew that, one of these days, overhyped John Duddy was going to be exposed the way he was against Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. The shame for the Irishman is that he couldn't have secured at least an alphabet title bout before that happened. Then again, that opportunity might come a lot easier now. Look bad in a high-profile test, and you're more likely to land in the Rolodex of a titlist looking for an easy future defense.

• Expect New York State to lift its ban on Ultimate Fighting before the year is out. When that happens, "Big Apple" dwellers will no longer have to cough up train fare and trek all the way to Newark to watch guys who can't take a punch. They'll be able to listen to the glass jaws shattering right there at Madison Square Garden.

• Andre Ward does indeed look like a future superstar, but let's take a deep breath and wait a little while before we anoint him, "The Next ... "

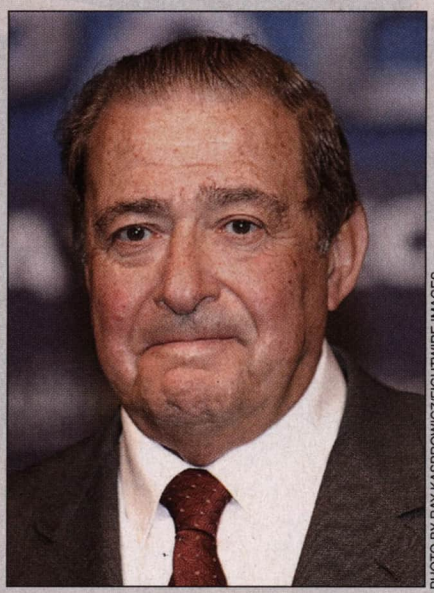


PHOTO BY RAY KASPROWICZ/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Arum somehow holds a straight face when it comes to talking about Margarito's handiwork

• Folks who don't like the Super Six have to realize that these contenders wouldn't all be facing each other if it wasn't for the tournament format. The only thing that prevents the tourney from getting a grade of A+ is the exclusion of Lucian Bute. Of course, Bute vs. the Super Six winner seems like a natural.

• Promoter J Russell Peltz is talking about bumping up the level of competition for his undefeated welterweight, Mike Jones (Peltz mentioned the likes of Andre Berto and Jan Zaveck). It's about time. Jones, after all, is a *Philly fighter*. He's probably had tougher battles in parking lots than he has had climbing to 22-0 as a pro.

• Some of the best news of the month: Atlantic City, New Jersey has unveiled blueprints for a bronze statue of native son Leavander Johnson in a downtown park. The plan is to dedicate the sculpture on September 22, the five-year anniversary of Johnson's death at age 35 from injuries he suffered in a knockout loss to Jesus Chavez.

• In a previous issue, your columnist speculated that Barclays Center, the new arena being built in Brooklyn for the NBA's Nets, might make a good venue for the Sweet Science. And before you know it, Golden Boy Promotions signs an exclusive deal to stage 36 cards there over a three-year span. That's great because I'll now get to see the building without having to endure a Nets game.

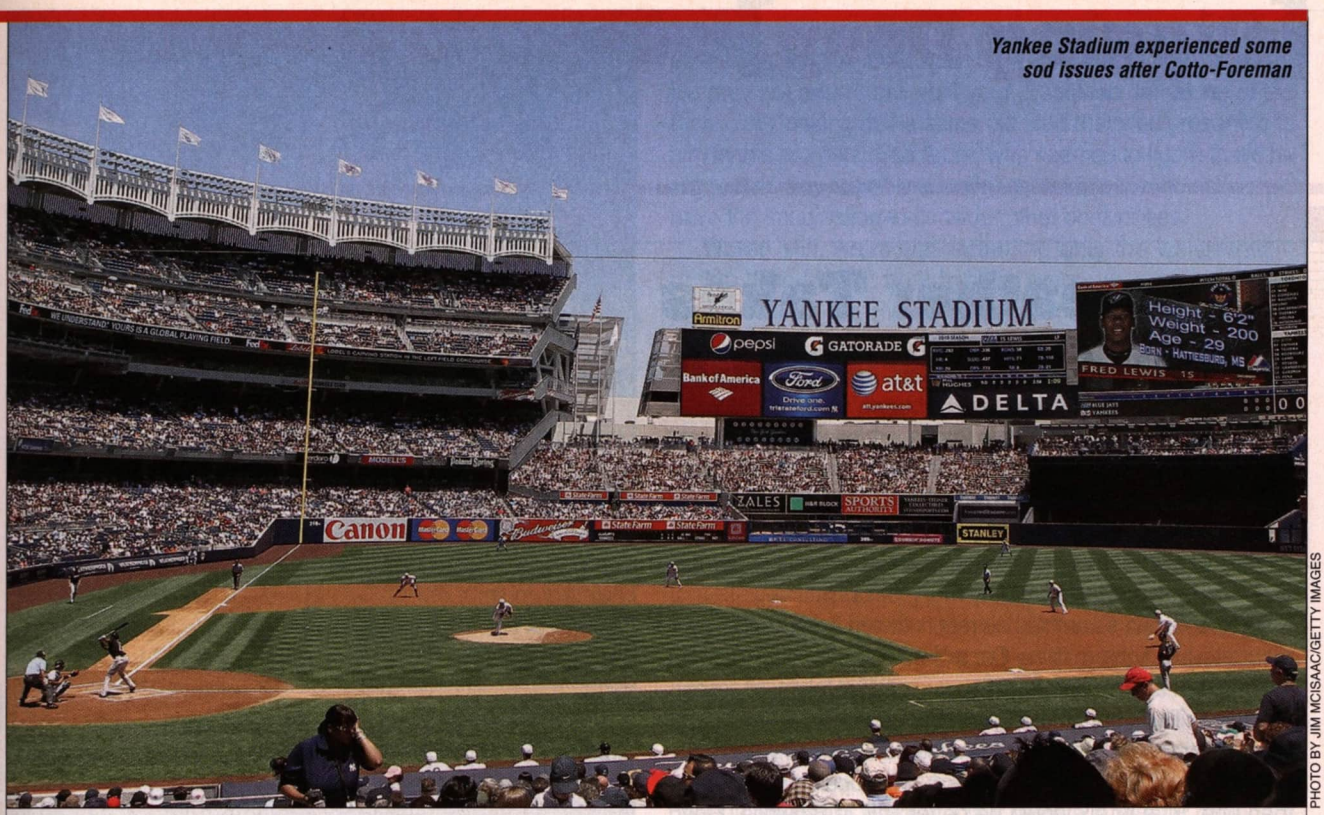
• What member of Mensa picked out the music to be played between bouts on the Cotto-Foreman card? Orthodox Jews and Puerto Ricans with young kids in tow were treated to the Yankee Stadium sound system blaring an Eminem rap that was chock full of F-bombs. Fun for the whole family.

recently decided it was taking a hiatus from televising not just The Brothers K, but all of boxing's big men. The last straw, apparently, was the announcement that Wlad would be facing Alexander Povetkin and not Haye in September. (Ross Greenburg, president of HBO Sports, even went so far as to say that one Klitschko is indistinguishable from the other.) It's revealing that the two most interesting potential foes for the Klitschkos, Haye and Tomasz Adamek, are both former *cruiserweight* kings.

The Klitschkos have worn alphabet crowns together, turned the top two positions in THE RING ratings into a lofty penthouse accessible only by their own private elevator, and complied a combined record of 94-5 (86). It's not their fault that they're too good at a time when everyone else is so mediocre. But regardless, they do appear destined to go out quietly one day (at least in the US), even if they're still on top at the time. The irony, of course, will be if they piss each other off on the way home from their retirement press conference, get out of the car, take off their jackets, and settle things *mano a mano* with no one there to see it.

Sod But True: If the Yankee Stadium ground crew has a say in the matter, it might be another 34 years before the fight game returns to the big ballpark in the South Bronx. Apparently, the ring and seats that were set up in right field for the Miguel Cotto-Yuri Foreman card in June were about as kind to the stadium's natural grass as Jorge Posada is to a hanging curveball. The turf took a worse pounding than any of the fighters and was still rutted and patchy weeks later.

"They put some new grass out there, but it's not everywhere," Yankees center fielder Curtis Granderson told the *New York Post*. "There's a lot of green stuff. Before it looked like paint. [Left fielder Brett Gardner] slipped and his uniform turned bright green. I'm not sure what's out there."



Yankee Stadium experienced some sod issues after Cotto-Foreman

PHOTO BY JIM MCISAAC/GETTY IMAGES

Relish This: There was a real freak show at Coney Island on July 4th, and it had nothing to do with a bearded lady or a guy who twists his torso into a pretzel. To the dismay of a crowd of rabid fans and an ESPN audience, the politics of an alphabet ruling body intruded on a dream matchup and the showdown everyone had hoped for didn't materialize. A beachfront boxing card? No, the annual hot dog-eating contest at Nathan's.

Everyone was clamoring for another showdown between former champion Takeru Kobayashi and defending titlist Joey Chestnut, but the Japanese star was banned from the event after refusing to sign a contract with the IFCE, which stands for the International Federation of Competitive Eating. Not surprisingly, Chestnut retained his title belt with ease. Yes, he does own an actual title belt. (By the way, is the world's greatest chestnut-eater named Joey Hot Dog?) Later that night, a trash-talking Chestnut appeared on local TV in New York alongside the head of the eating governing body, sort of a Jose Sulaiman of stomach-stuffing.

You'd have thought this was a *Saturday Night Live* parody of the Sweet Science, especially when Kobayashi tried to storm the stage and create a scene after Chestnut's win. But before he could get close to his rival, Kobayashi was arrested by a bunch of cops who acted like bigger weenies than anything the folks at Nathan's stuffed in a bun and covered with mustard that day.

PHOTO BY YANA PASKOVA/GETTY IMAGES

Chestnut and Kobayashi should take a few cues from boxing to heat up their rivalry

If the "sport" of competitive eating is going to use boxing as its blueprint, stage-storming is going to have to become an accepted practice and not grounds for a trespassing bust. And it has to be followed by lots of arm-waving, some finger-jabbing in the chest, and vows to leave the other guy crying in a puddle of his own regurgitated tube steaks. *That's* how you make the leap—hot-diggity-dog!—from ESPN to pay-per-view. ■

By Ivan Goldman

Mayweather Takes Extended Restroom Break

Remember when fighters from every conceivable weight division and quite a few from totally *inconceivable* divisions were obsessed with Oscar De La Hoya? They baited, insulted, and kissed up to him, concocting and discarding one strategy after another in their desperate attempts to land a match with the money monster of his time.

Well, the mad scramble has reconstituted itself, except now there are two fighters filling Oscar's boxing shoes. Both meet every test of a superstar, including exceptional talent, charisma, and the ability to put fans in seats and generate big-time purses. If I never mentioned their names you'd still know exactly whom I mean. And make no mistake: Two superstars are better than one. Five or six would be better still. Meanwhile, Floyd Mayweather and Manny Pacquiao can't go out for a burger without some would-be opponent jumping over the counter and challenging them to a multi-million-dollar contest.

Back when Oscar was the only big ticket, too many fighters avoided each other for fear that a loss could kill their chances to milk the golden goose (Okay, you don't milk geese, but you know what I mean.) Still, by the time he hung up his gloves two years ago, he got around to just about every deserving opponent.

When Oscar retired, the global economy was already staggered by one of those shots out of nowhere, wobbling down Queer Street scared and confused as jobs and savings disappeared fast. Fight promoters felt pressured to

PHOTO BY LARRY MARANO/GETTY IMAGES

Mayweather (pictured with Dwyane Wade) seems more interested in basketball than boxing

PHOTO BY ANDY KROPA/GETTY IMAGES

Has Arum relegated Pacquiao to fighting in-house retreads?

make deals and they did, the best example being the groundbreaking "Super Six" tournament that Showtime was able to put together while dealmakers were frightened to say no. Unfortunately they've since lost that fear.

In the world at large, people not shattered directly by the financial global meltdown are getting used to the new reality. Promoters and managers too. In fact, the fight business is in some ways starting to resemble the bad old days of the 1950s, when mobster Frankie Carbo and his pals ran the show and matchups were made to suit them, not the sport or the fans. Back then, it wasn't rare for deserving fighters without juice to be left out in the cold for their entire careers. Today's Carbos use lawyers and contracts instead of guns as they run around building their own exclusive little empires.

Just before I wrote this, Mayweather drifted off from the superstar-negotiating table again for a prolonged bathroom break. He may not return until next year. Pacquiao, left alone at the table, was looking at the same old tired matches presented to him by his promoter Bob Arum, who seemed to figure that if he suggested only opponents under contract to him no one would have the imagination to consider other possibilities.

Worse still, Arum was scanning only the welterweight ranks. "Pac-Man's" best fighting weight is at junior welter, where he held THE RING championship until agreeing to fight Antonio Margarito at 150 pounds and where excellent matches could have been made against the likes of Tim Bradley, Devon Alexander, and Amir Khan. Also, count Zab Judah, at 147, and his lightning uppercut as top players again (especially if they remain a team).

Arum's not the only promoter with limited vision, but, thanks to his Margarito obsession, he's the worst offender. Bombastic Bob's still determined to snooker everyone into forgetting all about Marga-sleazo's unfortunate propensity to sneak building materials into his gloves. Arum aims to wear us down into accepting his pet weasel as a major player again. Margarito-Pacquiao, Margarito-Cotto II, Margarito-Mayweather, you name it. (See Futches below).

Meanwhile, Golden Boy, for example, seems to consider only Golden Boy opponents for Khan, although there has been some talk of Bradley. Offer them a superstar opponent and promoters will snap at the opportunity. Otherwise, they prefer to match their accomplished fighters with someone from within their own stables. It's so much more profitable to have money pouring in from both ends of the deal.

Heavyweight Posterity: Although the Klitschkos get lots of grief for their too-predictable styles and can't even get their matches televised in the US, they make the kind of history that gets remembered with their tag-team

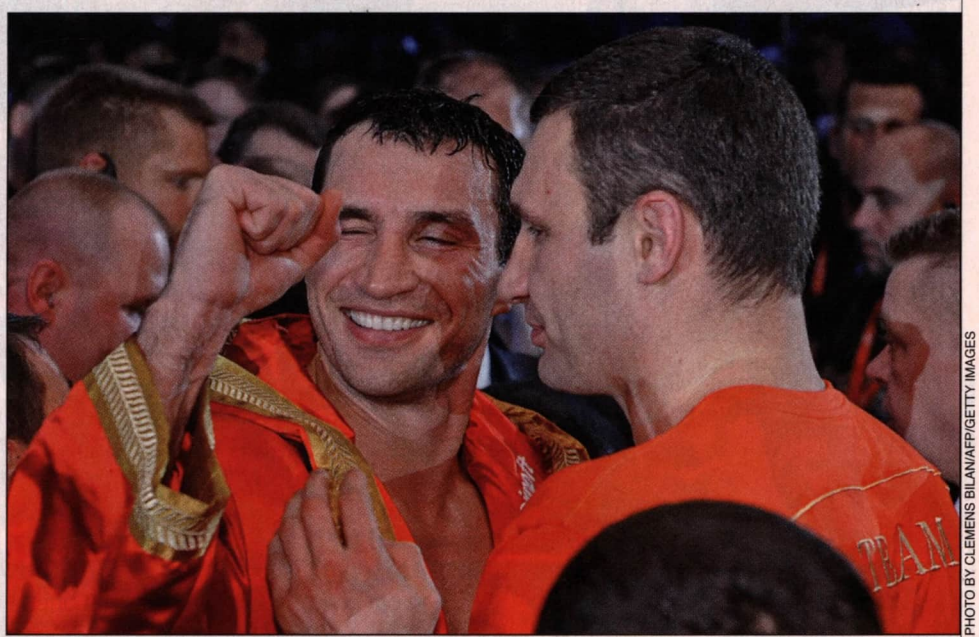


PHOTO BY CLEMENS BILAN/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

The prefect tag-team: Wladimir and Vitali Klitschko

tactic. They've ultimately defeated every opponent who beat them except for Lennox Lewis, who retired before they could get at him again. The three fighters who scored victories initially against Wladimir were all kayoed later by one of the brothers (Lamon Brewster, Corrie Sanders, and Ross Purrity). This isn't as impressive as the record of Lewis, who, in rematches, kayoed the two opponents who stopped him. But it's *interesting*. It will leap out of the record books and catch the attention of future generations. Provided, of course, these remarkable brothers don't linger too long at the party and ruin the revenge streak.

Local Heroes & Clowns: On a positive note, these days we have a healthy share of locally popular fighters like Lucian Bute, the Klitschko brothers, and Tomasz Adamek who pack hometown houses. Las Vegas is no longer the automatic first or even second choice as a fight venue. Spreading important events around to other locations has improved the climate. In that sense, the state of the sport is much better than many of us feared it would be when the Great Recession first rolled across America. In fact, boxing might be ready to resume its place as a truly major sport if it could get past a tenacious, terrible hurdle—the awful state of officiating.

Ref Ricky Gonzalez earns a Futch with timely stoppage

PHOTO BY EMILY HARNEY/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

The World Cup soccer tournament reminded us that boxing isn't the only sport with this trouble. We saw legitimate goals that weren't counted and missed shots that were, and some of us suspected bias against certain teams (mainly the US and England). But there was an important difference: After each officiating catastrophe, tournament directors removed those responsible from the line-up. In boxing, Arthur Mercante Jr., Eugenia Williams, and other serial clowns return again and again and again.

Futch One: To referee Ricky Gonzalez. When Hank Lundy was helpless in round 11 against John Molina in one heck of a lightweight battle, a lot of referees would have let the fight continue. Why? Lundy, clearly way ahead on the cards, was the local kid in a classic East Coast-West Coast showdown. But Gonzalez did the right thing at precisely the right time, even if he was in Providence, Rhode Island.

We'd already seen one miracle when Molina, getting his ears boxed off round after round, suddenly caught Lundy with a right hand right out of Hollywood and slammed him into the canvas in round eight. There were no more miracles coming in that particular contest. Lundy's an exciting, talented fighter, and anyone who saw the match would want to see him fight again. Thanks in no small part to Gonzalez' integrity, it's a safe bet we will.

Futch Two: I can't applaud his mostly plodding style, but you gotta love Molina for not only refusing to quit, but also for making life imitate art in a Rocky Balboa finish.

Futch Three: To the Nevada commission for resisting fierce pressure to print a license for vicious cheat Margarito and advising him to apply instead to the California commission, where he was caught with loaded gloves. This is a logical course of action that tactician Arum had fiercely resisted.

Nevada commissioners, by a 4-1 vote, bravely stood up to local bigshots desperate to pull in visitors who might want to check out another Margarito freak show. They also ruled against powerful, Las Vegas-based Arum, who claimed that the plaster of Paris concealed in Marga-sleazo's wraps could have been hand cream residue. Witnesses testified that the knuckle pads containing hardened chunks of dry plaster surrounded by additional wet plaster were tinged blood red from previous use. Doesn't sound much like hand cream. Mayonnaise and taco sauce maybe?

Arum predictably called the Nevada decision "gutless" and an "absolute outrage." Arum, who promotes all three fighters, claimed at one point that he'd put Plast-arito in against either Pacquiao or Miguel Cotto in Mexico. But in Mexico the purses would be much smaller. Maybe Arum doesn't realize it, but he doesn't hold all the cards this time, and neither does Margarito. Pacquiao and Cotto would be unlikely to accept reduced purses and risk suspensions in the US so they can be nice to Arum, who isn't all that likable anyway.

PHOTO BY FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Roach thinks Margarito used loaded gloves at the Wild Card Gym

Cotto is convinced those bloodstained loads in Margarito's wraps were used against him. So am I. Pac-Man's trainer, Freddie Roach, is convinced Margarito used loaded gloves while sparring in Roach's Wild Card Gym in Los Angeles. Sneak-a-rito's lucky he's not behind walls making license plates.

Now the bad news. My conversations with the people who make these decisions lead me to believe California is preparing to go over to the Dark Side and relicense Marga-sleazo right around the time this column appears. He could be dripping mayonnaise and taco sauce soon at a venue near you.

Javier Capetillo, the plaster-master trainer Arum offers as a fall guy when he's not pleading the hand cream defense, was, the last I heard, still training fighters in Bell, California, just east of LA Doesn't seem to be any law against it. A pity.

No Magoos this month. I can't jump all over the California commission for something it hasn't done yet.

Mail Call: After placing my e-mail address at the end of this column for the first time, I received my first response from Matt DiTo of Las Vegas, Nevada. He addressed it to me and columnist Jim Bagg simultaneously. Matt thinks Arthur Mercante Jr. is a swell referee who did an outstanding job when he encouraged Yuri Foreman to continue fighting with one working leg. Bagg and I thought otherwise. Mr. DiTo goes on to scold me for stuff that I didn't even write. I summarize so I can get to the real point here. Listen, DiTo, how could you possibly confuse me with Bagg? I'm the devastatingly handsome one with rapier-like intelligence. Bagg is the other one.

Gritty: A new film in limited release, *Chamaco "The Kid,"* contains many scenes shot in Marco Antonio Barrera's gym in Mexico City. My reaction? Flawed but still a compelling movie. ■

Ivan Goldman can be contacted at ivangoldman@yahoo.com

Camera Clicks

PHOTO BY ALEXEY YUSHENKOV/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Cupid has never been a particularly intimidating character ... until now. Mike Tyson, the man who once drove nose bones through brains, is now driving arrows through hearts (and doing us the courtesy of wearing more than just a diaper and a pair of wings). This photo was taken in Astana, Kazakhstan, where Tyson played around with a bow and arrow during an appearance at the first Astana International Action Film Festival in June.

PHOTO BY ERNESTO BENAVIDES/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Kina Malpartida got up from a second-round knockdown to defeat Liliana Palmera in her hometown of Lima in June, and all of Peru's most noteworthy bald-headed men were there to celebrate with her. Seriously, between the gold on Kina's belt and the two noggins positioned next to it, it's a wonder the photographer was able to take this picture without getting blinded by the reflection.

PHOTO BY PAUL BENALDEZ/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Karaoke is a little different in the Philippines, with everyone dressing nicely and the words to the song printed in a red book rather than on a TV screen. As he was taking the oath of office and getting sworn in as a congressman, Manny Pacquiao unveiled his new hit song, "Sometimes When We Negotiate." When asked if they enjoyed the song, Richard Schaefer said, "No comment," and Leonard Ellerbe insisted there was no song.

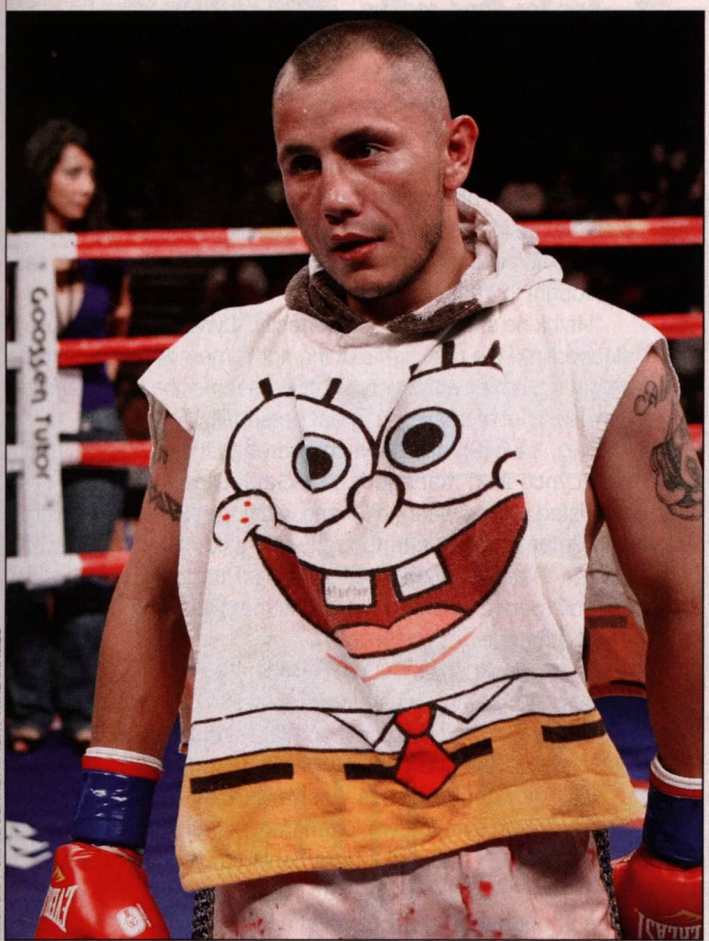


PHOTO BY CRAIG BENNETT/FIGHT WIRE IMAGES

On the one hand, you have to give credit to any fighter comfortable enough in his own skin to enter the ring wearing a SpongeBob hoodie. On the other hand, if you're a journeyman fighter like Hector Alatorre who's lost 10 of your last 12 bouts, do you really want to associate yourself with a sea sponge and leave yourself open to the "soaking up punishment" jokes? We suppose it could be worse; he could have worn a Squidward Tentacles shirt and gotten himself disqualified for excessive holding.

Though disappointed to learn that the World Cup is not a giant mug filled with beers from around the globe, Ricky Hatton still loves to play soccer, and he took part in a charity game called Soccer Aid to benefit UNICEF in Manchester, England, in June. "The Hitman" isn't as fleet on his feet on the soccer pitch as he used to be, but he is getting close to being perfectly suited for a new role: the goalie who can block every shot without moving.

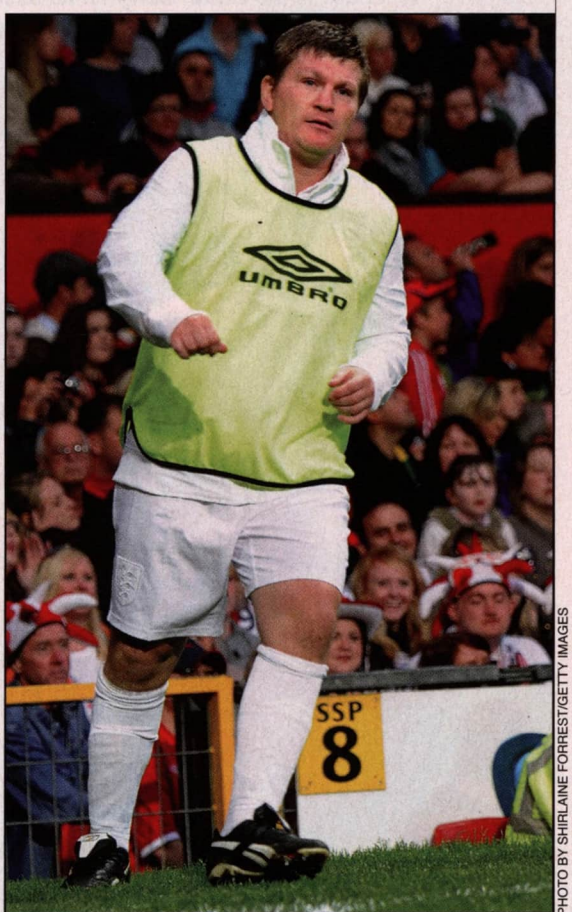


PHOTO BY SHIRLAINE FORREST/GETTY IMAGES

By Don Stewart
PHOTOS BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

Jorge Diaz Featherweight

Like a stick drifting down a river, Jorge Diaz was caught in a current of uncertainty in the early months of his pro career. Uncertainty about his identity. Uncertainty about his future.

Start a business? Get a job? Go back to school? Try to make a living as a fighter? Diaz wasn't sure which direction to go. His only focus at that time was on his next fight, his next payday.

So Diaz' co-manager, Sal Alessi, paid for the junior featherweight prospect to attend some business courses at a New Jersey college. After the first class, Diaz approached the professor with a few questions.

"What kind of businesses do you own?" he asked.

"None right now," the professor answered.

"Well, what businesses did you own in the past?"

"I've never actually owned a business."

"Then why are you teaching this class if you've never been in business?"

That was the end of a one-day college experience for Diaz, who never went back to the class. "Sal got mad because he paid for that," he said with a laugh. Fortunately for Alessi, Diaz has remained an astute pupil at the Passaic PAL boxing gym.

Along the way, the 22-year-old New Brunswick, New Jersey, native came to accept what those around him seemed to be saying all along: *Jorge Diaz is a fighter*. "Boxing," he said, "became my life."

And for good reason. Backed by a devoted team that includes co-manager Pat Lynch, Alessi, and up-and-coming trainer Mike Skowronski, Diaz has ascended rapidly. He's unbeaten through 14 fights, several of which came against tough opposition. His crowd-pleasing style has led to a growing fanbase and a deal with promoter Top Rank. He's appeared on Fox Sports Net and has fought in Yankee Stadium.

Pro Record

2007		
Nov. 9	Anolan Rigal, Bronx, NY	KO 4
Dec. 6	Antonio Vera, Newark, NJ	KO 1
2008		
Feb. 9	Arthur Parker, Union City, NJ	KO 2
April 11	Juan Guerrero, Atlantic City, NJ	KO 3
June 7	Gino Escamilla, Atlantic City	W 6
July 31	Giovanni Figueroa, North Bergen, NJ	KO 3
Dec. 13	Saul Gutierrez, Atlantic City	W 6
2009		
Feb. 21	Lante Addy, New York, NY	W 6
June 13	Guadalupe De Leon, New York	W 6
Oct. 10	Yan Barthelemy, New York	KO 6
Dec. 5	Luis Angel Paneto, Atlantic City	KO 1
2010		
Jan. 23	Tommy Atencio, New York	KO 1
March 20	Alejandro Lopez, Key West, FL	W 8
June 5	Jae Sung Lee, Bronx	KO 6

FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DRAW	KOs
14	14	0	0	9

"I think he's moving along perfectly," Lynch said. "He's been stepped into the right fights at the right times, and he seems to be getting better with every fight. He seems like he's made for television, lot of charisma, great personality."

Diaz, 14-0 (9), has been compared to the late Arturo Gatti, who Lynch also managed. Like Gatti, Diaz has Jersey ties, two-fisted power, wears blue and white trunks, and often fights with defense as an afterthought. But aside from their nationalities—Gatti was Italian while Diaz is Puerto Rican—the biggest difference between the two is that Diaz was a more polished amateur.

He took gold at the 2006 US Under-19 National Championships at 119 pounds, was runner-up at the '07 National Golden Gloves, and picked up bronze medals at the '06 PAL Nationals and at the National Golden Gloves in '05 and '06.

Diaz' amateur success was remarkable, considering he bounced from gym to gym, often training himself. He bummed rides to several national tournaments, and sometimes had to use his gift of gab to talk his way into a hotel room if he couldn't raise enough money for his own accommodations. After winning the Under-19 tournament in 2006, Diaz got stranded in Colorado for three months when his ride home fell through.

Diaz entered the '07 National Golden Gloves with hopes of adding a significant gold medal to his resume, but a narrow 3-2

(Continued on Page 106)

POR LOS QUE SE ATREVEN A SUBIR AL RING

CON CARÁCTER

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MAYWEATHER VS. VS. PAST SUPERS

How Do Floyd And Manny

By Gavin Evans

One of the great compulsions of a serious boxing habit is that thing of comparing and contrasting today's mortals with the marvels of the past. Mostly, we do this in a negative light: "Ali would've danced rings around those Klitschko brothers—both at once." But there's also the business of drawing historical analogies: "You wanna know the fate of Mike Tyson? Remember Sonny Liston." Or: "See the way James Toney slips, slides, and counters? Think Archie Moore, Jersey Joe Walcott … "

Inevitably, today's claimants for the pound-for-pound title, Manny Pacquiao and Floyd Mayweather, are starting to draw comparisons with legends of old. So we thought we'd indulge ourselves with a few of our own …

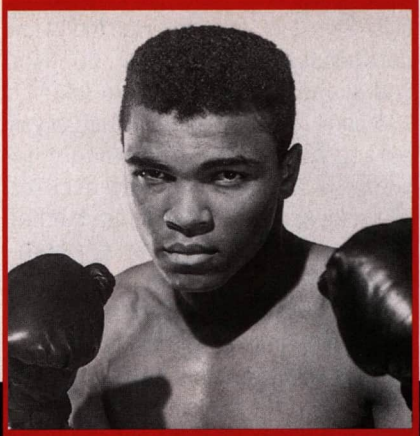
Let's start with "Pretty Boy Floyd," the defensive genius who insists he's surpassed the prowess of the Sugar Rays, but whose critics deride him for caution in the ring and for his choice of opponents.

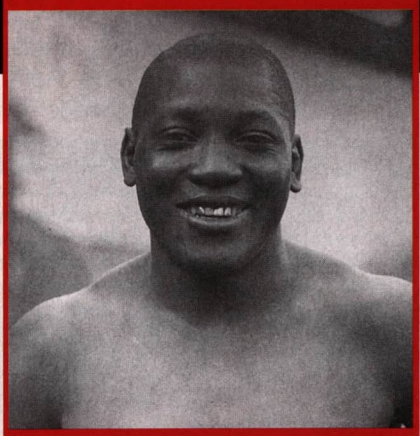
A good place to start is a century ago, with the golden smile of Jack Johnson. For starters, there's a superficial stylistic resemblance. Johnson, like Mayweather, was a defensive boxer who waited until he'd sucked the marrow out of opponents before applying the finishing touches. But we should not overstate the analogy. In a hug-happy era, Johnson was king of the clinchers. The free-flowing Floyd is the epitome of busy aggression in comparison.

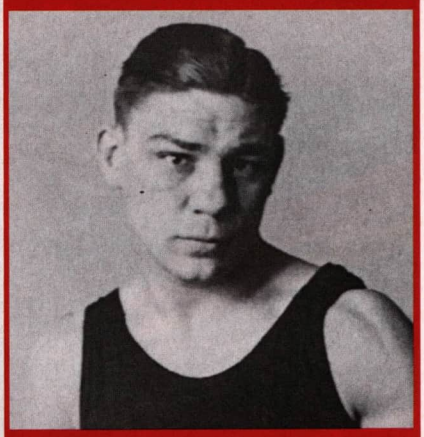
"Papa Jack" was accused of avoiding his most dangerous opponents—in parti-

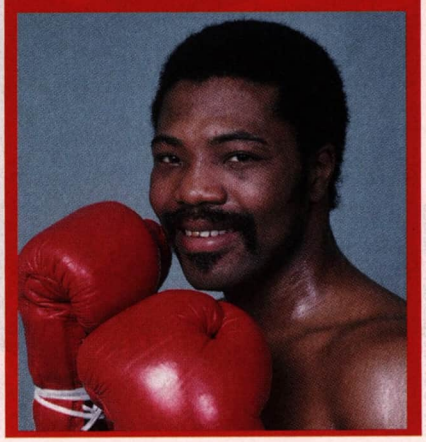
PHOTO BY TOM HOGAN/GOLDEN BOY PROMOTIONS

PACQUIAO TARS Compare?









cular Sam Langford—although the yellow dog accusation was unfair. Johnson had already beaten Langford (albeit a 156-pound version) and preferred bigger purses from beating up white men. Likewise, Mayweather was accused of avoiding Antonio Margarito, but had his way with Shane Mosley, who'd demolished Margarito.

Outside the ring, Johnson got off on taunting, belittling, and acclaiming his superiority. Mayweather has a similar inclination, but the context is different. The first-ever black heavyweight champion was reviled by most of white America, and, when he beat Jim Jeffries, at least 26 people died in racial violence. Pretty Boy Floyd faces nothing comparable.

Johnson let himself go after winning the title—drinking heavily, smoking cigars, cavorting with prostitutes and beating them up. Mayweather has never strayed when it comes to the essential business of staying in shape, although in other respects his behavior has left plenty to be desired. In 2005, he was acquitted of charges of beating up his girlfriend, but he had previously pleaded "no contest" on charges of assault and battery for a bar fight and, before that, received a one year's suspended jail sentence for battery following a fight involving two women.

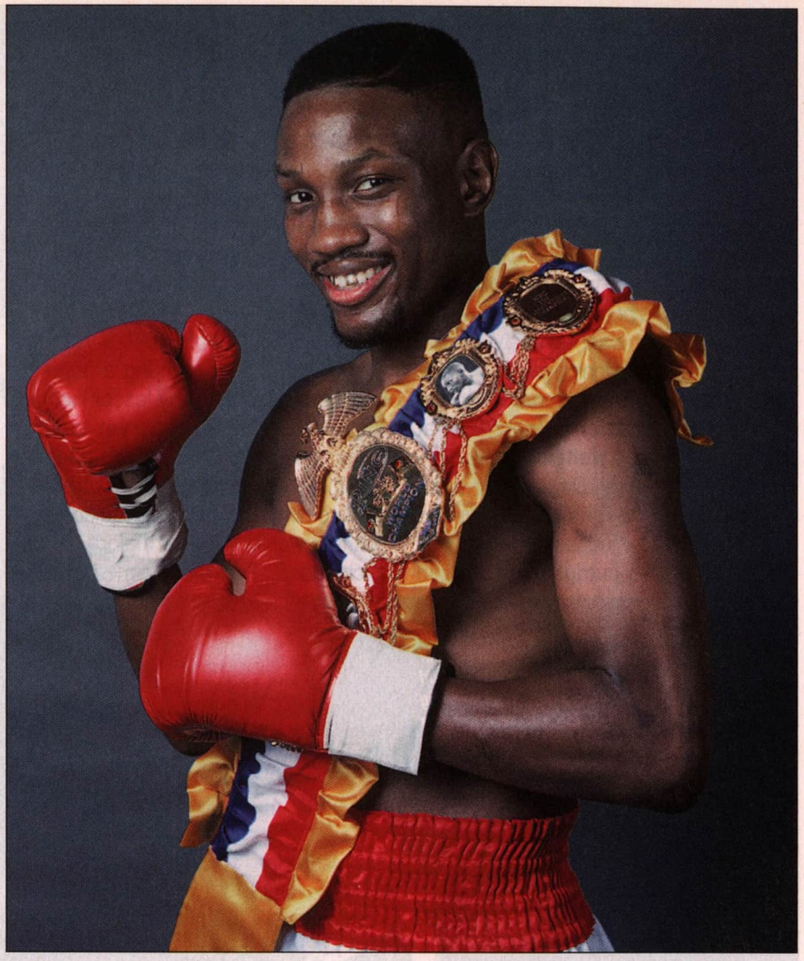
Perhaps a more apposite comparison is with Muhammad Ali. At his best, Ali was a dancer and an arm puncher, and yet his dazzling speed, skill and looks, his way with words, and the stances he adopted, meant he was a crowd magnate of the highest order. In this sense, Mayweather is eating off Ali's legacy, becoming an A-list attraction without exactly being a thrill-a-minute kind. The boastfulness, the bling, the WWE re-branding add to his pulling power, but he has none of Ali's charm or wit, and, in contrast to "The Greatest," stands for nothing higher than his 5'8" self. In this sense, he's closer to Naseem Hamed, although even "The Prince" had an occasional twinkle in his eye. Until recently, "Money's" gangsta shtick, was simply obnoxious.

To find a closer fit to Mayweather the boxer, we have to look at his own weight range, starting with the magnificent Benny Leonard, who held the world lightweight title from 1917 to 1925. Leonard was a beautifully balanced dancing master, who fought in the upright, head-high style, slotting his jab into little spaces and parrying the return fire, and he was a decent puncher too. He lost just five out of 218, but, unlike Mayweather, he failed in his bid to move up in weight, losing on disqualification in the 13th round against Jack Britton when he tried for the welterweight title.

Then there was the man rated as the finest featherweight of them all, Willie Pep, whose speed, footwork, reflexes, and sophisticated defensive skills made him unbeatable at featherweight until injuries suffered in an air crash closed the gap with his rivals. He lost just once in his first 136 fights—against world lightweight champion Sammy Angott. Mayweather can match Pep's skills and has added to them—he's a better in-fighter and a bigger puncher (a 61-percent knockout ratio, compared with Pep's 27 percent) and, unlike the Italian-American, he has had no trouble against bigger men. But, of course, he has had nowhere near Pep's 241 bouts (a mere 41 so far).

Floyd Mayweather eludes a right from the larger Oscar De La Hoya during their megafight in 2007. "Money's" incredible defensive skills are reminiscent of former great defensive specialists like Jack Johnson and Willie Pep. But Mayweather's elusiveness and countering abilities may be most like Pernell "Sweet Pea" Whitaker (opposite page).

PHOTO BY AL BELLO/GETTY IMAGES



Moving on 20 years, we come to the Mexican-based Cuban, Jose Napoles. Known as "Mantequilla" (butter) because of his smooth style, he was a beautifully poised boxer who could take a man out with one punch (an asset Mayweather shows more rarely). Napoles was a top contender at lightweight and junior welter before finally getting his first shot at welterweight in his 64th fight. He reigned for 7½ years (briefly interrupted by a cut eye loss) but, in the end, the combination of age, wear-and-tear, and a hard-drinking lifestyle prompted his title defeat in his 88th bout.

A more recent comparison could be drawn with the slippery Puerto Rican, Wilfred Benitez, who was just 17 when he lifted the WBA junior welterweight title from Antonio Cervantes, showing a delightful blend of hand and foot speed and radar-like reflexes. At 20, he beat Carlos Palomino for the WBA welterweight belt but ran into Sugar Ray Leonard in his 40th fight. Undertrained, and lacking Leonard's power, he was stopped in 15. He moved up again, won the junior middleweight title, boxed the ears off Roberto Duran, but he burned out by the age of 24. What he lacked was Mayweather's dedication—and his chin.

Perhaps the closest match is Pernell Whitaker, who could dance like Leonard, block and parry like Pep, and do far more—thoroughly confusing opponents with his switch-hitting, while peppering them with quick punches, and whacking

away at their bodies. After outboxing Roger Mayweather (Floyd's uncle and trainer), he unified the world lightweight title. He then lifted the IBF junior welterweight title and had a four-year stint as WBC welterweight titlist, punctuated by winning the WBA junior middleweight title before losing on a hotly disputed decision against Oscar De La Hoya. By then, Whitaker was a 33-year-old cokehead and well past his prime.

Mayweather can already match "Sweet Pea's" title-winning achievements, moving up after three years as junior lightweight titleholder to take titles at lightweight, junior welter, and welterweight, while beating De La Hoya at junior middleweight—and so far he's had better luck with the judges. Whitaker was the victim of two outright robberies in fights he won widely. Mayweather's two close shaves—against Jose Luis Castillo in 2002 and against De La Hoya in 2007—both went his way.

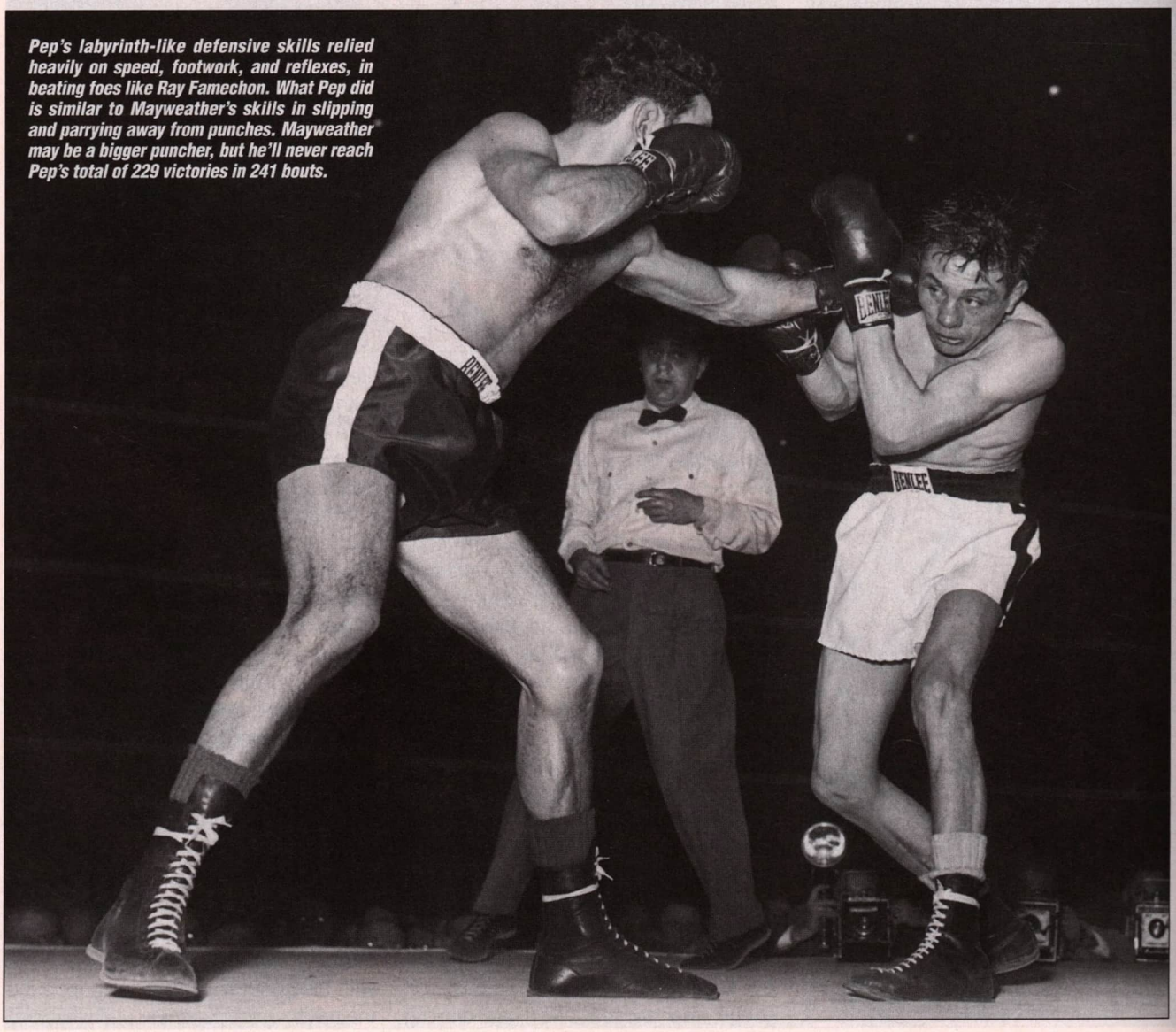
Sweet Pea had something else in common with Mayweather—he was frequently acerbic and confrontational, with a fair-sized chip on his shoulder—but unlike Money it never translated into cross-over stardom. He remained an acquired taste.

Johnson, Ali, Leonard, Pep, Napoles, Benitez, Whitaker all hung around too long and got beaten by lesser mortals. Mayweather, at 33, has yet to show signs of decline. But if there's one man within his weight range with a chance of beating him, it is Manny Pacquiao—a result that would please a majority of fight aficionados. "Pac-Man" is the boxer the fans love to love, just as many love to hate Mayweather.

Outside the ring, the perpetually beaming Pacquiao is charismatic, exuberant, and charming, yet he's modest and unassuming at the same time. This certainly contributes to his immense appeal, which captured his entire home base (the Philippines) before he spread his largesse to America and the rest of the world.

Go back 100 years and you reach the start of the career of an early Pac-Man archetype, Jimmy Wilde. The miniscule Welshman had hundreds of fights in the fair booths before officially turning professional as an 85-pound 18-year old and went on to have 148 fights, losing just four.

Watch "The Mighty Atom" on film today and you see an explosive blend of



Pep's labyrinth-like defensive skills relied heavily on speed, footwork, and reflexes, in beating foes like Ray Famechon. What Pep did is similar to Mayweather's skills in slipping and parrying away from punches. Mayweather may be a bigger puncher, but he'll never reach Pep's total of 229 victories in 241 bouts.

Like Pacquiao carries the Philippines into the ring with him each time he fights, Fighting Harada carried the nation of Japan with him in the 1960s. Japan shut down to witness Harada (right) winning a unanimous decision over Ray Asis in July 1964. Harada's victory was supposed to secure a title bout with bantamweight world champion Eder Jofre, but he had to wait a year before handing the legendry Jofre his first pro defeat.

speed, power, and skill. They also called him "The Ghost With The Hammer In His Hands," and it was not uncommon for him to flatten far bigger men. For example, when he won British recognition as world flyweight champion in 1914 by beating Joe Symmonds, he weighed 97 pounds (14 less than Symmonds). However, Wilde's backers were not beyond trying to even the odds by insisting opponents weigh in under the limit—something Pac-Man did against Miguel Cotto (demanding a 145-pound limit).

Like Pac-Man, Wilde conquered North America after winning universal recognition as world champion, boxing 13 times in the US and Canada, although by then he was past his prime. Pacquiao has had 18 fights in the US and is still in his prime.

Pac-Man also started out tiny—weighing 106-pounds for his 1995 debut. He won the WBC flyweight title 12 years ago, but weight troubles prompted his title loss in his second defense, after which he skipped two divisions and settled at junior featherweight, winning the IBF title in 2001. He began another trek north after 2003, all the way to welterweight, and seemed to take his power and speed with him, while his punch resistance improved.

Perhaps the most remarkable example of weight-leaping was another boxer from a century ago, Sam Langford. Like Pacquiao, the "Boston Tar Baby" was busy and aggressive by the standards of his day, and he was also extremely slippery and a potent counter-puncher who carried the power to take out far bigger men.

He started at lightweight and, in 1903, outpointed world champion Joe Gans. Nine months on, he got the better of world welterweight champion Joe Walcott but had to settle for a draw. After that, he took on all comers, including heavyweights, and he bettered all but Jack Johnson (who had a 29-pound advantage). Langford won the newspaper decision in a no-contest bout with middleweight champion Stan Ketchel in 1910 (when he carried Ketchel) and, the following year, knocked world light heavyweight champion Philadelphia Jack O'Brien, but never received a world title shot in any division. He did, however, hold the world "Colored" heavyweight title five times between 1909 and 1918. Jack Dempsey, one of many who

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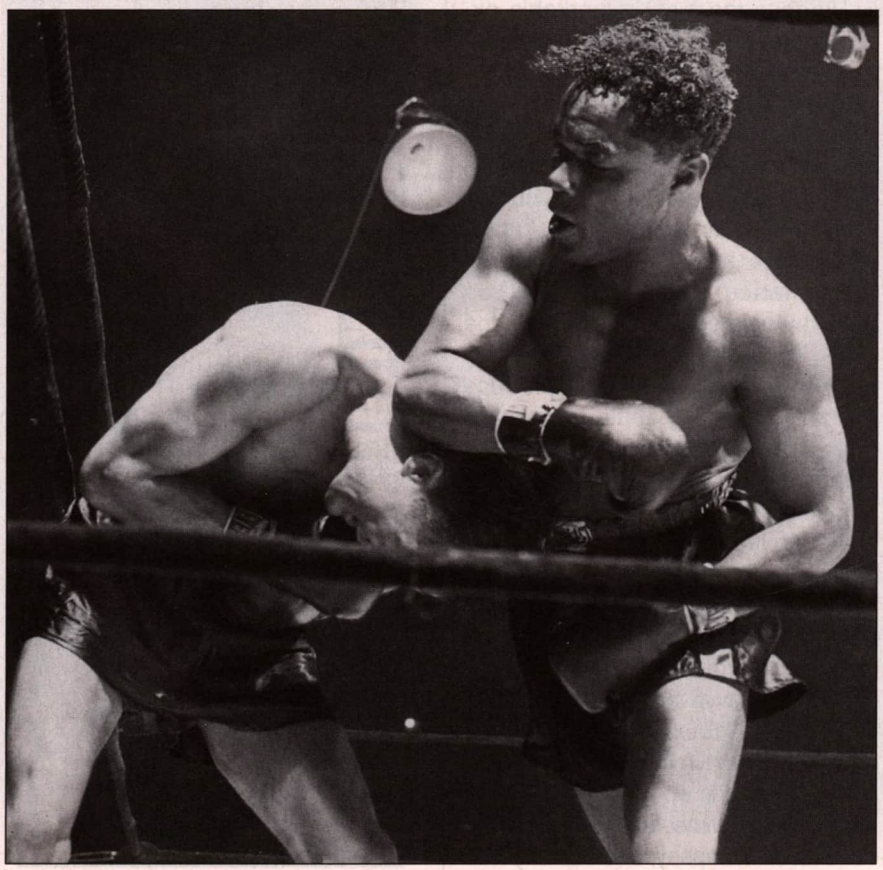
refused to fight him, admitted: "He was a helluva puncher, so why should I get my brains knocked out for nothing? Even at my best I don't know whether I could lick him."

A closer stylistic fit for Pac-Man is the man some regard as the finest middleweight of all-time, Harry Greb. Known as the "Pittsburgh Windmill," he was a mercurial speedster who was also extremely skilful, impossibly tough, invariably dirty, and utterly unpredictable in his movements.

Greb started in 1913 as a 140-pounder, but grew to middleweight and did most of his fighting against bigger men. Finally, in his 239th fight, when well past his best, he won the world middleweight title and held it for three years. Along the way, he beat five 175-pound world champions and held the US title (won by mauling Gene Tunney), but he never got a shot at the world light heavyweight title. He also had 40 fights at heavyweight, beating several top contenders more impressively than Dempsey. One example: In 1918, Willie Meehan beat Dempsey for the second time. Eight months later, Greb, giving away 33 pounds, trounced Meehan for the second time. In 1920, Greb got the better of Dempsey in three public sparring sessions, after which the champion's manager, Jack Kearns, refused to accommodate him.

If Greb had a stylistic successor, it was Henry Armstrong, the only man to have held world titles at three weights simultaneously. Like Pac-Man, Armstrong had a remarkable engine, enabling him to throw punches nonstop while bobbing and weaving to avoid the counters. He was very quick and in the lighter divisions carried formidable power—and like Greb, was a dirty fighter with a hard chin.

He started at featherweight, having one run where he scored 30 knockouts in a row, and in 1937, weighing 124 pounds, stopped Petey Sharon for the world title. Seven months later he jumped two divisions (four by today's standards) to beat up Barney Ross for the world welterweight title and then beat Lou Ambers for the world lightweight title. He ended up defending his welterweight belt 19 times (weighing at or under the lightweight limit in six of them) and also got the better of a drawn fight with Ceferino Garcia for a version of the middleweight title. But by the age of 27, Armstrong was burned out—too many fights and too much hard drinking.



Henry Armstrong rips into Fritzie Zivic during their world welterweight title fight in 1940 (left). Pacquiao's all-out, go-for-broke style reminds many boxing fans and historians of "Homicide Hank's" windmill approach. "Pac-Man's" been more successful, chewing up challengers like Miguel Cotto (right). Armstrong, however, didn't fair so well in this tilt against Zivic, losing the welterweight world championship.

A later model was Japan's Fighting Harada, who, like Pacquiao, became a hero back home. He too was a rapid-fire, aggressive fighter who possessed underrated defensive skills. In 1962, Harada pulled off an upset by stopping Pone Kingpetch for the world flyweight title. He moved to bantamweight and pulled off an even bigger surprise by edging past the great Brazilian, Eder Jofre. After four defenses, weight troubles contributed to his title loss so he moved to featherweight and went to Australia to challenge Johnny Famechon for the WBC

PHOTO BY AL BELLO/GETTY IMAGES

title. The referee, Willie Pep, scored it a draw—then changed his mind and gave it to the homeboy.

A more recent version of the Pac-Man combination of speed, aggression, workrate, and power was Aaron Pryor, who was the world's number-one junior welterweight for five years. "The Hawk" fought at a furious pace, but he was also deceptively elusive and could box with the best when required. Essentially a lightweight, he knocked out Antonio Cervantes for the WBA junior welterweight title in 1980 but wanted to take on Ray Mancini for the 135-pound title, or Sugar Ray Leonard at 147 pounds. Instead, Pryor had to settle for 10 more WBA and IBF 140-pound victories, including two against the great Alexis Arguello. Eventually, cocaine addiction got the better of him, yet, when he finally retired in 1990, his record stood at an impressive 39-1 (35).

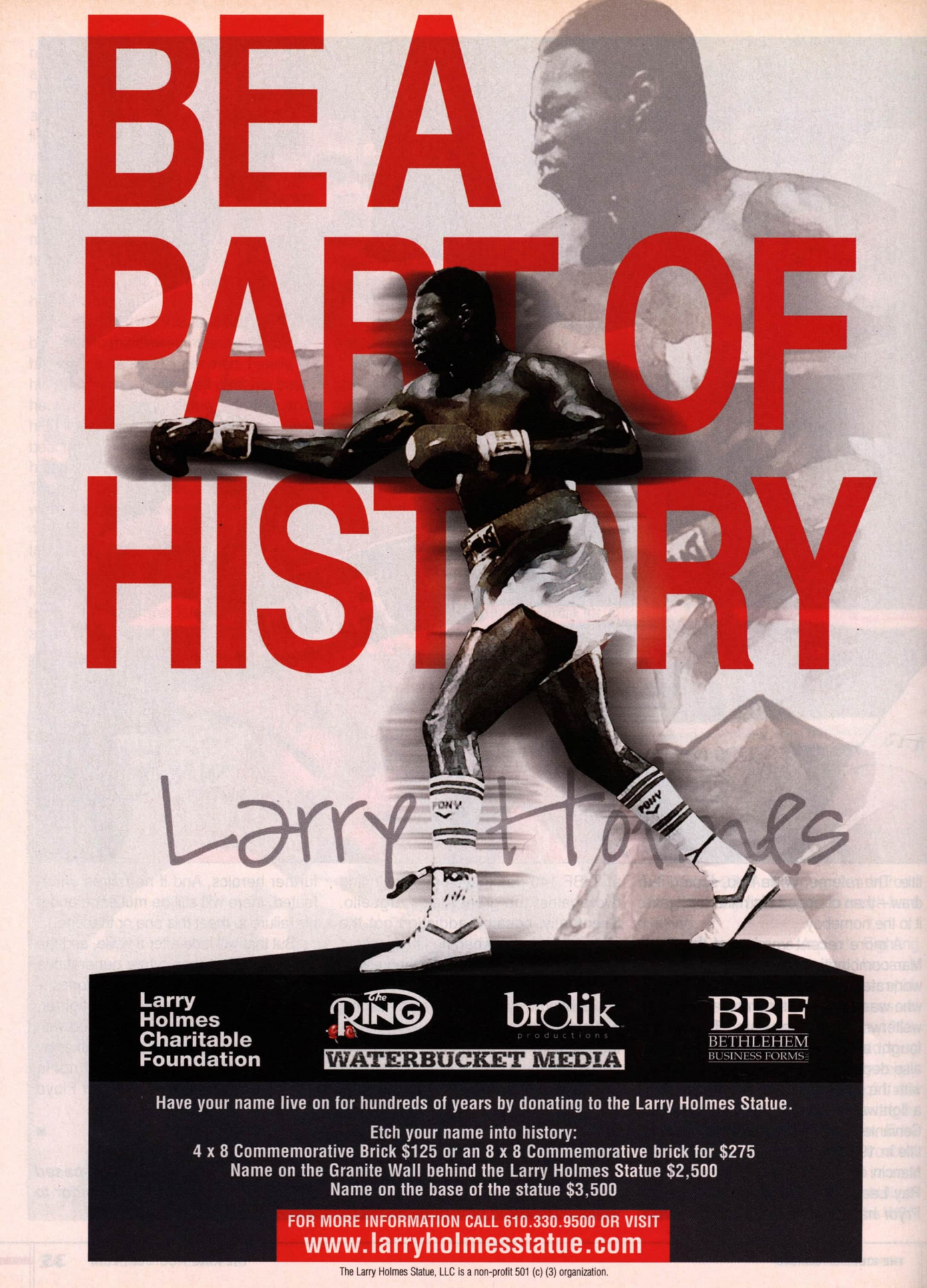
Right now, Pacquiao's weight-leaping achievements and his behavior outside the ring compare favorably with those of his illustrious predecessors. A win over Mayweather, followed by retirement, would be the ideal way to seal that legacy, but his reputation as a modern great is confirmed—even if he loses.

For Mayweather, more is required. A loss to Pac-Man would be devastating, while a win would prompt demands for further heroics. And if he retires undefeated, there will still be muttering about his failure to meet this one or that one.

But that will fade after a while, and the time will come when future generations of fight fans will speak in hushed tones—about both men. "He's a good fighter, sure, but he could never have lived with the Pac-Man" and "Not a bad boxer by today's standards, but he's just not in the same league as the likes of Floyd Mayweather … "

All it takes is time. ■

Gavin Evans is a London-based freelancer and regular contributor to THE RING.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The RING ALL-STAR REPORT CARDS

Grading Boxing's Elite

By Don Stradley

It was out with the old and in with the new as THE RING composed this year's All-Star Report Card. Gone from last year's survey are such old warhorses as Bernard Hopkins, Roy Jones, Ricky Hatton, Shane Mosley, Juan Manuel Marquez, Chris John, and Israel Vazquez. In place of those fighters are newer, fresher names like Yuriorkis Gamboa and Timothy Bradley, a sign that new blood is being pumped into the sport. Meanwhile, names like Sergio Martinez and Pongsaklek Wonjongkam show that our All-Star list always has room for veterans, provided they're still producing in the ring.

Aside from the youth movement, there are other trends that have emerged this year. For instance, there is a noticeable dip in Mexican or Mexican-American fighters among our 20 All-Stars. When THE RING first compiled this roster in 2003, there were five such fighters listed; this year, there is one. Also, the number of fighters born in the United States has shrunk from 13 in 2003 to a measly four this year. Lopez and Miguel Cotto may be US citizens by way of Puerto Rico, but they didn't learn their stuff in the American amateur system, so they can't be counted. Brits are on the rise, though—there was only one Brit All-Star in 2003, but three made the list this year, sans Hatton.

Perhaps you're wondering why some of your favorite fighters didn't make the list, but rest assured that many other fighters were given close consideration. It's just that some fighters lost fights as we were creating our list and others fall just a bit short in terms of box office and general excitement value.

Granted, the 20 fighters who have made it were not chosen solely on their ability to sell tickets and attract cable customers. The ability to fill seats definitely plays a big part in our selection process. Some fighters, Nonito Donaire for example, might not yet be a legitimate "star" on the level of Floyd Mayweather or Manny Pacquiao, but we felt he can compete with the best in terms of talent and is certainly on the way to stardom.

Those who were removed from last year's list are gone because they simply didn't do enough to merit inclusion this year. The one exception is the late Edwin Valero. He made it last time, and there was every reason to believe he'd repeat.

With that in mind, here are the 2010 All-Star Report Cards. The fighters are judged on talent, achievement, marketability, support system, and growth potential. They are presented in order of weight class, starting with the heavyweights.

WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO

Heavyweight Champion

54-3 (48)

TALENT: The fighter we're seeing now is actually the third version of Klitschko. When he made his pro debut after winning a gold medal at the 1996 Olympics, he was a punishing knockout artist. Then, from 2003-2005, he was the fragile Klitschko who had trouble staying on his feet. Now, as Wlad 3.0, he is an overly cautious, sometimes dull fighter who controls fights with a long, probing jab. His left hook and straight right are excellent, and at 6'6", 245, he is an imposing, statuesque heavyweight. Still, what has kept him undefeated since 2004 is his unwavering concentration. **Grade: A-**

ACHIEVEMENT: Frustrated by the cancellation of a bout with David Haye, Klitschko fought only once since last year at this time, notching a 12th-round stoppage of Eddie Chambers. The win was his 14th title defense spread out over two reigns, and the first defense of THE RING championship. Not bad for a guy who started out beating the likes of "Wimpy" Halstead, and "Bigfoot" Martin. Klitschko victims include Chris Byrd (twice), Francois Botha, and Hasim Rahman. Klitschko also gave a number of undefeated heavyweights their first losses, including Calvin Brock, Sam Peter, Eliseo Castillo, Ruslan Chagaev, and, in one of the all time worst stinkers, Sultan Ibragimov. You could say he hasn't beaten any great fighters, but your argument would be stronger if you could actually name a great heavyweight since the retirement of Lennox Lewis. **Grade: A-**

MARKETABILITY: Klitschko is a Caucasian with charisma and a knockout percentage that would impress Earnie Shavers, but he can't even get a fight on American TV. The moronic statement by HBO's Ross Greenburg regarding viewers not being able to discern between Wladimir and his brother Vitali as the reason for Wladimir not securing HBO dates shows how little Wladimir means in the USA. Had Greenburg said the same thing about the Marquez brothers, he'd be labeled a bigot. Apparently, though, fighters from the Ukraine are safe targets. Fortunately, the German public treats Klitschko like a superstar. **Grade: A+ (in Europe) C- (in USA)**

PHOTO BY CLEMENS BILAN/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

SUPPORT SYSTEM: Bernd Boente and Shelly Finkel work as Klitschko's business advisors, while Klitschko's promotional group is K2 Promotions. They seem competent, but a couple of huge international bouts—Klitschko vs. Oleg Maskaev, and Klitschko vs Nicolay Valuev—fell through the cracks. Rather than try to figure out who is at fault, let's focus on the strong work of trainer Emanuel Steward, who began working with Klitschko when "Dr. Steel Hammer" was beginning to look like a chinless wonder. Steward's resurrection of Klitschko may go down as one of the great reclamation projects in boxing history. On the personal front, Klitschko is dating gorgeous actress Hayden Panettiere, which means not everyone saw the Ibragimov fight. **Grade: A**

GROWTH POTENTIAL: When Alexander Povetkin withdrew from his scheduled challenge, K2 Promotions reached out to Samuel Peter, who lost a close decision to Wlad in 2005. The bout will still probably do big business in Germany. Let's hope a match with David Haye happens eventually. **Grade: B**

VITALI KLITSCHKO

WBC Heavyweight Titleholder

40-2 (38)

TALENT: Age and injuries have slowed him to where he is no longer the destroyer he was prior to his first retirement in 2004, but 38-year-old Vitali can still wear opponents down with his steady jabs and right crosses. He's also one of the most intelligent heavyweights around, with an intellectual's understanding of how to use his size and jab to control a fight. His 10th-round kayo of Albert Sosnowski showed that he might have regained a little of that right-handed power that helped earn him a brief reign as THE RING's heavyweight champion. He also uses his 6'7" height to great advantage by standing tall and leaning away from opponents. He's never been knocked down and it has been years since anyone hit him with anything resembling a clean shot to the chin. **Grade: A**

ACHIEVEMENT: Klitschko stayed busy since last year's All-Star roundup, defending the WBC title successfully against Chris Arreola, Kevin Johnson, and Sosnowski. Like his brother, Vitali has also beaten a decade's worth of good but not great heavyweights, including Sam Peter, Danny Williams, Corrie Sanders, Kirk Johnson, Larry Donald, Vaughn Bean, Orlin Norris, Ross Puritty, and Herbie Hide. When you consider that Vitali's only losses have been on a cut (to Lennox Lewis) and a shoulder injury (to Chris Byrd)—in fights that he was winning before the stoppages—it's clear that he has been a very dominating performer. True, he may have dominated a weak field, but every other heavyweight of the era had the same chance, and they didn't do it. **Grade: A**

MARKETABILITY: He isn't quite the attraction that his younger brother is, but he's a popular figure overseas. Because he's perceived as more of an action fighter than his brother, he might be able to get back into the good graces of American television if an interesting opponent comes up. **Grade: B**

SUPPORT SYSTEM: Like his brother, Vitali is handled by the Bernd Boente/Shelly Finkel combo, who kept busy in 2010 turning down offers from Don King to match Vitali with the no longer amusing Nicolay Valuev. Strangely, Vitali recently went online with a video tirade, calling Valuev a coward and saying the fans demanded the bout. If this was Vitali the promoter talking, maybe someone should listen, for Klitschko co-promotes his fights with Wladimir under K2 Promotions, and judging by the crowds in Switzerland and Germany, the Brothers K know what they're doing. Also, Klitschko and Fritz Sdunek have one of the longest boxer/trainer relationships in boxing, going back to Vitali's amateur days. **Grade: A**

GROWTH POTENTIAL: He's announced that he will again run for Mayor of Kiev (he failed in a 2006 bid), but, with opponents like Tomasz Adamek and David Haye in the wings, the elder Klitschko will probably continue fighting for a while. The downside is that Klitschko enjoys his alphabet belts, and Vitali may get bogged down in trying to please the WBC, which means more dreary mandatory challengers. **Grade: B**

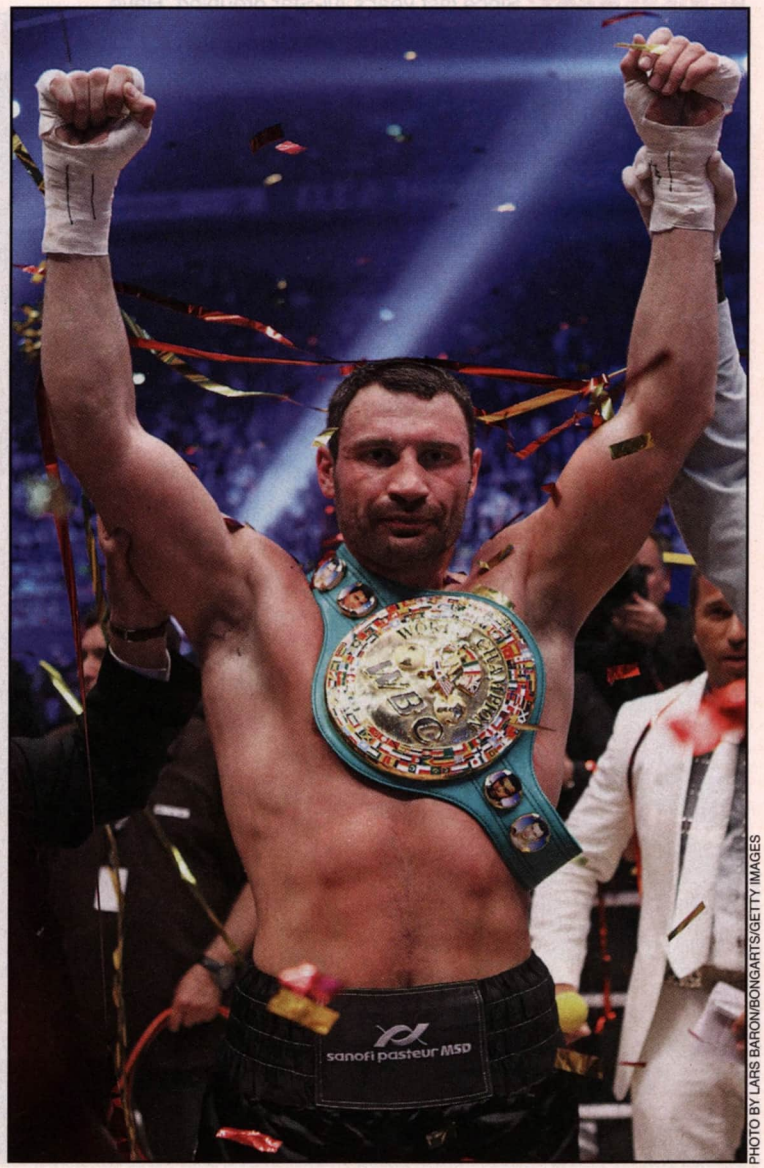


PHOTO BY LARS BARON/BONGARTS/GETTY IMAGES

DAVID HAYE

WBA Heavyweight Titleholder

24-1 (22)

TALENT: Haye seems to have been blessed at birth with a booming right hand and an oversized dose of self-confidence. So far, that has been more than enough. He showed chin and stamina problems when he was kayoed by Carl Thomson in 2004, but, since then, he's won 14 consecutive bouts, all but two inside the distance. He occasionally shows good speed and footwork to go along with his hitting prowess, and, as he settles into the heavyweight class, he's aware that his speed will be more important than ever. At 6'3", 222, he's a strong, mobile heavyweight. **Grade: A-**

ACHIEVEMENT: Since last year's All-Star grouping, Haye defeated a pair of veteran heavyweight stalwarts, John Ruiz and Nicolay Valuev. He had the giant Valuev tottering near the end of their bout but settled for winning a majority decision and the WBA heavyweight belt. He made his first title defense by stopping Ruiz and sending him into retirement. Stopping Ruiz, who'd been kayoed only once before, was impressive. Prior to his current campaign at heavyweight, Haye was one of the most decorated cruiserweights in that division's 30-year history, winning the WBA, WBC, and WBO belts. He was eventually recognized as THE RING's cruiserweight champion after traveling to France to score a seventh-round stoppage of Jean Marc Mormeck. **Grade: A-**

PHOTO BY CHRIS ROYLE/HOGANPHOTOS/GBP

MARKETABILITY: Haye ruffled some feathers when he backed out of a bout with Wladimir Klitschko to challenge Valuev, but, by winning the WBA strap from Valuev, Haye became more marketable. Thus, a unification bout with either of the Brothers K is now more lucrative. He's yet to make an impact on American television, but he has the personality and the punch to do well there. **Grade: A-**

SUPPORT SYSTEM: Promotionally, Haye has jumped around a bit, from Dennis Hobson to Frank Maloney to creating his own company, Hayemaker Promotions. Golden Boy Promotions joined in as Haye's US promoter in 2008. GBP CEO Richard Schaefer sees Haye as a star in the making and has been vocal about bringing Haye to America. Meanwhile, Adam Booth, who acts as both Haye's manager and trainer, also happens to be Haye's business partner in Hayemaker Promotions. You have to wonder how the GBP/Hayemaker alliance will work. The Haye/Booth team is a tight-nit group, and they have succeeded by doing things their own way, even if they occasionally piss off people. Merging with GBP is a bit like an edgy, independent film company merging with Steven Spielberg's DreamWorks. No problems so far though. **Grade: B+**

GROWTH POTENTIAL: With the heavyweight division in a funk of almost historical proportions, Haye is in the right place at the right time. The plan seems to involve him fighting some Brits, Audley Harrison perhaps, until a bout with a Klitschko can be made. At 29, Haye is in his prime and has time to fight a few Brits and pad his bank account. **Grade: A**

TOMASZ ADAMEK

Heavyweight

41-1 (27)

TALENT: Former cruiserweight champion Adamek is a good boxer-puncher with better than average ring smarts. His best punch is a winging right cross, and, even if he hasn't quite carried his punch from light heavyweight to cruiserweight to heavyweight, he can still hit hard enough to keep opponents wary. He has shown a tendency to brawl in the past, which made his wars with Paul Briggs and Steve Cunningham candidates for Fight of the Year, but, as a heavyweight, he's relying more on his boxing skills. He's also shown a pretty good beard so far as he tangles with bigger men. **Grade: B+**

ACHIEVEMENT: Adamek, 33, has been busy since last year's All-Star ranking, making his presence felt in the heavyweight division. He started out by whacking 41-year-old warhorse Andrew Golota into submission, stopping him in five rounds. Adamek followed with decision wins over Jason Estrada and Chris Arreola. After injuring his right hand early in the Arreola bout, he used a lot of movement and counterpunching to dominate the game Arreola and earn a majority decision win. The one loss on his record was to Chad Dawson at light heavyweight. **Grade: B+**

MARKETABILITY: A 2007 book published in Poland and written by a former member of Adamek's camp linked him to steroids and organized crime, but Adamek denied the allegations and his popularity has not suffered. In fact, Polish-American fans haven't been so excited about one of their own since Bobby "The Polish Prince" Vinton scored a 1974 pop hit with "Melody Of Love." The friendly, down-to-earth Adamek has already established himself as a favorite in Newark, New Jersey, where he has lived in recent years, and his bout with Golota was a sensation in Poland. All that's lacking is a little more love from the cable giants, HBO or Showtime. One would think his bout with Arreola, which was shown on HBO's *Boxing After Dark*, impressed the suits, unless Ross Greenburg thinks Adamek is another Klitschko brother. **Grade: A-**

SUPPORT SYSTEM: Even though Adamek has replaced Golota as Poland's favorite pug, the shadow of Golota remains: Ziggy Rozalski, who previously handled Golota, acts as Adamek's manager; Adamek's longtime trainer Andrzej Gmitruk resigned recently due to health issues, and in his place are the veteran duo of Ronnie Shields and Roger Bloodworth, the latter of whom worked with Golota. After a turn with Panos Eliades promoting him, Adamek turned to Don King, who had promoted Golota. Adamek is now with Main Events, the group that promoted Golota in his prime. Golota never won a heavyweight title; maybe Adamek will. **Grade: A-**

GROWTH POTENTIAL: There has been talk of a fight with David Haye, and a bout with either Klitschko would create some interest. As of press time, Adamek has a bout scheduled with Michael Grant. The 6'7" Grant may have been sought out for his height, to get Adamek ready for the Klitschkos. **Grade: A-**

PHOTO BY ED MULHOLLAND/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

ANDRE WARD

WBA Super Middleweight Titleholder

22-0 (13)

TALENT: Ward may not have anything in his arsenal that is particularly eye-catching, but he possesses the kind of steady, workmanlike ability that can sometimes take a fighter farther than flashy moves or violent kayo power. He can fight as a lefty or a righty, is good on his feet, and his hands are quick. He can control a fight from a distance and can also pile in and outwork an opponent on the inside. He's a thinker in the ring and doesn't make many mistakes. He's not afraid to rough it up either, happily leading with his head at times. This all adds up to create a formidable young fighter. **Grade: A-**

ACHIEVEMENT: Along with an amateur record of 114-5, which included an Olympic gold medal in 2004, Ward has gone undefeated in 22 professional bouts, notching wins over the likes of Edison Miranda, Shelby Pudwill, Jerson Ravelo, and Rubin Williams. He won the WBA 168-pound title with a stunning win over Mikkel Kessler and received high marks again for his dominating performance against Allan Green. He's currently in first place in Showtime's "Super Six World Boxing Classic" tournament. **Grade: B+**

MARKETABILITY: The trouble with marketing Ward is that he has two strikes against him: His personality is on the quiet side and he's not known for having a big punch. Also, "Son Of God" is a less than compelling nickname, and the abbreviation "S.O.G." on his trunks looks like "soggy." Still, he has an amazing platform in the "Super Six" tournament and, if a humble ring technician can be marketed, then Ward is the guy. All he has to do is continue winning. **Grade: B**

SUPPORT SYSTEM: If Ward seems too much of a respectful, god-fearing family man, he's surrounded by plenty of noisy, colorful characters. Much credit goes to trainer Virgil Hunter, who takes some of the heat off Ward during press conferences and offers some great quotes while Ward remains low key. The two also have a great working relationship and have become very good at developing winning strategies. Also increasing the volume around Ward is promoter Dan Goossen, who promotes Ward with the same braggadocio he uses for all his charges, and manager James Prince, the rap mogul who has managed such fighters as Winky Wright, Floyd Mayweather, and the late Diego Corrales. Prince signed Ward right out of the Athens Olympics, a bold move since 2004 was the year HBO, Showtime, and ESPN began trimming their boxing budgets, and signing bonuses and multi-fight deals were becoming things of the past. Prince and Ward's partnership may be stronger than most since it was forged during hard times for boxing. **Grade: A-**

GROWTH POTENTIAL: The jury is still out on whether Ward is as good as he looked against Green. We sense, though, at age 26, he has great potential. We'd all like to be Andre Ward this year. **Grade: A-**

PHOTO BY ALEXIS CUAREZMA/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

ALL STAR REPORT CARDS

CARL FROCH

Super Middleweight

26-1 (21)

TALENT: He looks like a bent-nosed hooligan you might run into at a UK pub, but England's Froch is actually a crafty, intelligent fighter. His habit of holding his hands low is more than compensated for by his being surprisingly fast with both hands. His right lead, in particular, is a dangerous weapon, partly because no one expects to be hit with it from such a weird angle. Froch has had a long running verbal feud with retired Joe Calzaghe, and, in a way, Froch is to Calzaghe what Larry Holmes was to Muhammad Ali. Not as slick and not as popular, but similar in terms of style, although carrying a bit more power. He's also tough and willing to brawl when he's backed into a corner. **Grade: B+**

ACHIEVEMENT: Froch first grabbed the attention of American fight fans by coming up off the canvas to score a last-minute TKO over Jermain Taylor. After a fairly good amateur career—he was the first British boxer to win a medal at the senior World Championships—Froch won several UK belts at the professional level, notching wins over such British warhorses as Brian Magee and Robin Reid. In 2008, he faced Jean Pascal for the WBC super middleweight title vacated by Calzaghe, winning a unanimous decision in one of the best fights of the year. Froch has since gone on to become one of the stars of Showtime's "Super Six World Boxing Classic," having earned a close decision over Andre Dirrell and then losing the WBC belt to Mikkel Kessler in a close, entertaining battle. **Grade B+**

MARKETABILITY: Froch's verbose personality and aggressive style makes him the type of fighter you'd like to see against anyone. He's already developed a strong following in his hometown of Nottingham, England, and the Showtime tournament is adding to his luster. **Grade: B+**

SUPPORT SYSTEM: Froch has a good relationship with trainer Robert McCracken, a former Brit middleweight of some renown. Froch's manager/promoter Mick Hennessy, who has also been McCracken's manager, will have his hands full in the future for Froch has grown skittish about fighting anywhere near an opponent's home turf. Froch will never believe the loss to Kessler was anything but a hometown screwjob, so Hennessy might spend as much time negotiating for location as he is for money. The upcoming Showtime tournament bout between Froch and Arthur Abraham created headaches for everyone, as Hennessy battled Abraham's team to bring the bout to the UK, rather than Germany, where Abraham had wanted it. In the end, everybody agreed on Monaco. **Grade: A-**

GROWTH POTENTIAL: Even if he's eliminated from the "Super Six" tournament, there could be lucrative rematches with his tourney opponents, Dirrell and Kessler. Even a return with Pascal could generate some interest. We won't say the sky is the limit for 33-year-old Froch, but he stands to have a few more years of big fights, perhaps making a jump to light heavyweight. **Grade: A-**

PHOTO BY JOHN GICHIGI/GETTY IMAGES

PHOTO BY JOHN GICHIGI/GETTY IMAGES

Carol Froch tags slippery Andre Dirrell with a left en route to a close but unanimous decision victory on October 19, 2009, in Nottingham, England, during the first stage of Showtime's "Super Six" tournament.

THE BIBLE OF BOXING

MIKKEL KESSLER

WBC Super Middleweight Titleholder

43-2 (32)

TALENT: Kessler possesses an excellent command of the basics. He has decent power, especially with the right hand, and can dominate opponents with a good jab and a strong one-two combination. If he has a flaw, it's that he doesn't adapt well when things aren't going his way, as was the case in his losses to Joe Calzaghe and Andre Ward. **Grade: B+**

ACHIEVEMENT: After a 44-3 amateur career, Kessler turned pro as a junior middleweight in 1998, running up a string of 39 consecutive wins. Fighting almost exclusively in Denmark, Kessler has become a Danish hero, collecting wins over Dingaan Thobela, Anthony Mundine, Eric Lucas, and Markus Beyer. Along the way, he won the WBA and WBC titles at 168, culminating with a brilliant defense against Librado Andrade in 2007. Since then, Kessler has been uneven, losing by decision to Calzaghe, regaining the WBA title by beating Dimitri Sartison, making two defenses, and then losing to Ward via technical decision. Kessler got back in the win column with a hard-fought points win over Carl Froch in April 2010. **Grade: A-**

PHOTO BY HENNING BAGGER/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

MARKETABILITY: It's no secret as to why Kessler was chosen to be part of the Showtime Super Six World Boxing Classic. He's a handsome fellow with a lot of charisma and a big following in Denmark. He's also shown a lot of pluck, coming back from the loss to Ward to beat Froch. There's nothing to not like about the guy. Chances are, though, once the tournament ends, he'll be playing to the fans in Denmark, rather than trying to succeed in America. **Grade: B**

SUPPORT SYSTEM: Trainer Jimmy Montoya was added to Kessler's corner for the Froch bout and his presence was felt. For the first time, Kessler won a bout that wasn't always going his way, just by staying in there and competing. In his previous losses, Kessler seemed to lose hope and fade out. Montoya's energy may have been the difference. On the promotional end, Kessler is handled by Team Palle, one of the oldest promotional groups in Europe, going back to 1957. The group, headed by Mogens Palle and his daughter Bettina, has promoted such stars as Ken Buchanan, Johnny and Jimmy Bredhal, and that strange Danish heavyweight of the 1990s, Brian Nielsen. Palle even promoted Sonny Liston during his brief Swedish tour back in the 1960s. Kessler, though, would have to be considered Palle's most accomplished fighter. **Grade: A-**

GROWTH POTENTIAL: Unless he somehow wins the Super Six, we think Kessler may have peaked. While he's never been knocked out or even in danger of being knocked out, he's suffered bad cuts in recent bouts and may be a bit older physically than his 31 years. We can't see him moving up to light heavyweight with any success, because he's not particularly overpowering at 168. Still, should he be eliminated from the tournament, a bout with Lucian Bute would be welcomed. **Grade: B**

LUCIAN BUTE

IBF Super Middleweight Titleholder

26-0 (21)

TALENT: Bute has always been a solid, talented fighter, but he's improving in terms of both skill and confidence. In recent bouts, he's knocked opponents down with a wide variety of punches, including body shots, uppercuts, and a sizzling left cross. At 6'2" he's a tall, rangy southpaw, and he has become one of the most complete boxer-punchers in the sport. Still, questions about his chin and stamina are worth asking. He was kayoed by Gennady Golovkin in the 2003 World Championships in Bangkok and was nearly kayoed by Librado Andrade in their first bout. Questions about durability aside, he's fun to watch. **Grade: A-**

ACHIEVEMENT: Since making last year's All-Star list, Bute has scored two dramatic knockouts. The first was in a rematch with Andrade, where Bute made us all forget how he stumbled his way to the finish of their 2008 bout. This time, Bute demolished Andrade in four rounds. After that, Bute had no problem kayoing Edison Miranda in three. Miranda was Bute's fifth successful defense of the IBF super middleweight belt, which Bute won by stopping Alejandro Berrio in 2007. Sakio Bika, William Joppy, and Dingaan Thobela have also fallen to Bute. In Bika's case, it was before he was well-known from *The Contender* series. In the cases of Thobela and Joppy, it was after their stars had fallen. **Grade: B+**

MARKETABILITY: The personable Romanian is a star in Quebec, his two bouts with Andrade each drawing more than 16,000 to the Bell Centre in Montreal. He could soon be making inroads on HBO. He comes across well on TV, and Luis Barragan, the director of programming for HBO Sports, has already gone on record saying that Bute has the "it" factor that translates to viewers, even if he doesn't speak English. **Grade: A-**

SUPPORT SYSTEM: While having a major Canadian city behind him, as well as the interest of a major American cable network, is nice, Bute's trainer Stephane Larouche remains the prime mover behind Bute's career. Not only is Larouche credited with turning Bute from an undisciplined swinger into the polished fighter we see now, but Larouche is also director of operations for Interbox, Bute's promoter. Thinking as both trainer and promoter, Larouche has molded Bute's style by instilling in him the importance of closing the show with a flourish. Larouche understands that fighting on HBO is a key to mainstream success, and he has drilled it into Bute's head that this is his time to shine. It's refreshing to hear someone say that the audience counts for something. For that reason, we may never hear Larouche say, "Let's just win tonight and look good next time." **Grade: A-**

GROWTH POTENTIAL: The challenge for Bute's camp is to keep him busy while the Showtime tourney is still cooking, for that's where most of his future opponents are at the moment. Jesse Brinkley was being mentioned for Bute at press time, with long shots Bernard Hopkins and Kelly Pavlik possibly on deck. **Grade: A-**

PHOTO BY HERBY WHYNE/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

SERGIO MARTINEZ

Middleweight Champion

45-2-2 (24)

TALENT: Martinez may possess the whitest teeth in boxing today, along with the most suspicious suntan this side of George Hamilton, but he's a dervish of a boxer, circling opponents with his hands low and then luring them in to land his wicked counterpunches. Quick, smart, and unpredictable, Martinez possesses only modest power, partly because he's rarely planted with both feet on the canvas, preferring to hit while moving. Still, he's a tenacious battler who outworks opponents. His nickname is "Maravilla," which translates to "Marvelous," which he has certainly been in recent fights. **Grade: A-**

ACHIEVEMENT: Martinez, 35, honed his skills fighting across Argentina and Spain, with occasional visits to America. In 2000, only his third year of fighting for pay, he suffered a TKO loss to Antonio Margarito. After that loss, though, Martinez went undefeated in his next 28 bouts, including a 2008 TKO of Alex Bunema for the WBC 154-pound title. More recent fights include a controversial draw against Kermit Cintron, which most felt Martinez deserved to win. Many also felt Martinez deserved the nod in his next bout, a majority decision loss to Paul Williams. Martinez finally hit all the right notes in April 2010, earning an impressive unanimous decision over Kelly Pavlik to win The Ring's middleweight world championship, along with the WBC and WBO belts. **Grade: A-**

MARKETABILITY: A recent appearance at the International Boxing Hall of Fame induction ceremony in Canastota, New York, was met with great fanfare, which means, at least, that Martinez is the fighter of the minute. He could become a hit on HBO. Moreover, he's a charming, likeable character. **Grade: A-**

SUPPORT SYSTEM: Various promoters and managers have had a hand in Martinez' long career, but most recently he's been handled by DiBella Entertainment and advised by Sampson Lyakowicz. Juan Leon Diaz is handling the training chores, having replaced Gabriel Sarmiento. Right now, team Martinez is torn between appeasing the WBC, which is in their usual mode of mandating he fight unknown opponents, and HBO, which has opponent approval and was pushing for Martinez-Williams II. Here's hoping Martinez, who is finally in a good position, isn't washed under by red tape and politics. **Grade: B+**

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA/TOP RANK

GROWTH POTENTIAL: We'd like to think he'll go farther than Argentina's last champion, Carlos Baldomir, but, with his age creeping up, we aren't sure what to predict. Martinez has announced he will dump the 154-pound title and only seek fights at middleweight to emulate Argentine hero, Carlos Monzon. Our guess is that Martinez' camp will be smart and go for the money, meaning he'll fight Williams again. If Martinez wins, we'll reserve this spot for him next year. **Grade: B+**

PAUL WILLIAMS

Middleweight/Junior Middleweight

39-1 (27)

TALENT: Williams is proof that it's possible for someone to be both extremely talented and overrated. While his physical gifts are obvious—he's incredibly tall and throws a high volume of punches from crazy angles—he's far from unbeatable. His loss to Carlos Quintana and two close wins over Antonio Margarito and Sergio Martinez show that he is not the nightmarish creature his fans and promoter Dan Goossen would have us believe. What he is, though, is a good fighter with enough flaws to make him interesting. He's also been wobbled, cut, and dropped, which doesn't make him seem so invincible. **Grade: B+**

ACHIEVEMENT: His inclusion on this year's All-Star list is a show of faith on our part, because he hasn't been particularly special since last year at this time. He won a close, majority decision over Martinez, which many observers felt Williams lost, and he didn't look great in winning a horrid technical decision over Kermit Cintron, when Cintron fell out of the ring and wasn't allowed to continue. On the plus side, Williams' bout with Martinez was a Fight of the Year candidate for 2009, which made Williams seem, for the first time, like someone we wanted to see again. Prior to that, Williams had notched wins over veterans Winky Wright, Verno Phillips, and Sharmba Mitchell. Williams, who has had two brief, undistinguished turns as WBO welterweight titleholder, was also the first man to defeat European knockout artist Walter Matthysse, stopping him in 10. Williams avenged his only loss, kayoing Quintana in one round. **Grade: B+**

MARKETABILITY: Williams was once branded "The Most Avoided Fighter in Boxing," but that designation lacks the bite it once had, especially after his two most recent fights. Marketing this quiet, clean-cut fighter may be difficult. He has to keep winning and he has to be spectacular. **Grade: B**

SUPPORT SYSTEM: Promoter Dan Goossen is tireless and tiresome in his depiction of Williams as the most dangerous man in boxing. At times, it seems Goossen's pipe dream of having Williams dominate across numerous weight classes may be doing more harm than good for Williams' career. And why is Goossen so dumbfounded that small welterweights like Manny Pacquiao and Floyd Mayweather aren't interested in an opponent who has a longer reach than most heavyweights? Trainer/manager George Peterson has been with Williams since the beginning and is nearly as boisterous as Goossen. It's good for Williams to have such strong support, even if it borders on unrealistic. He's also pulled down a couple decent paydays already, which means Goossen has actually succeeded in selling Williams to some degree. **Grade: A-**

GROWTH POTENTIAL: The same things that plagued Williams last year are problematic this year. He's still too good and too unknown to warrant big fights with the big-name fighters. Goossen believes Williams can be a star. The public might agree if Williams can rack up a few more impressive wins. At 28, he still has time. **Grade: B+**

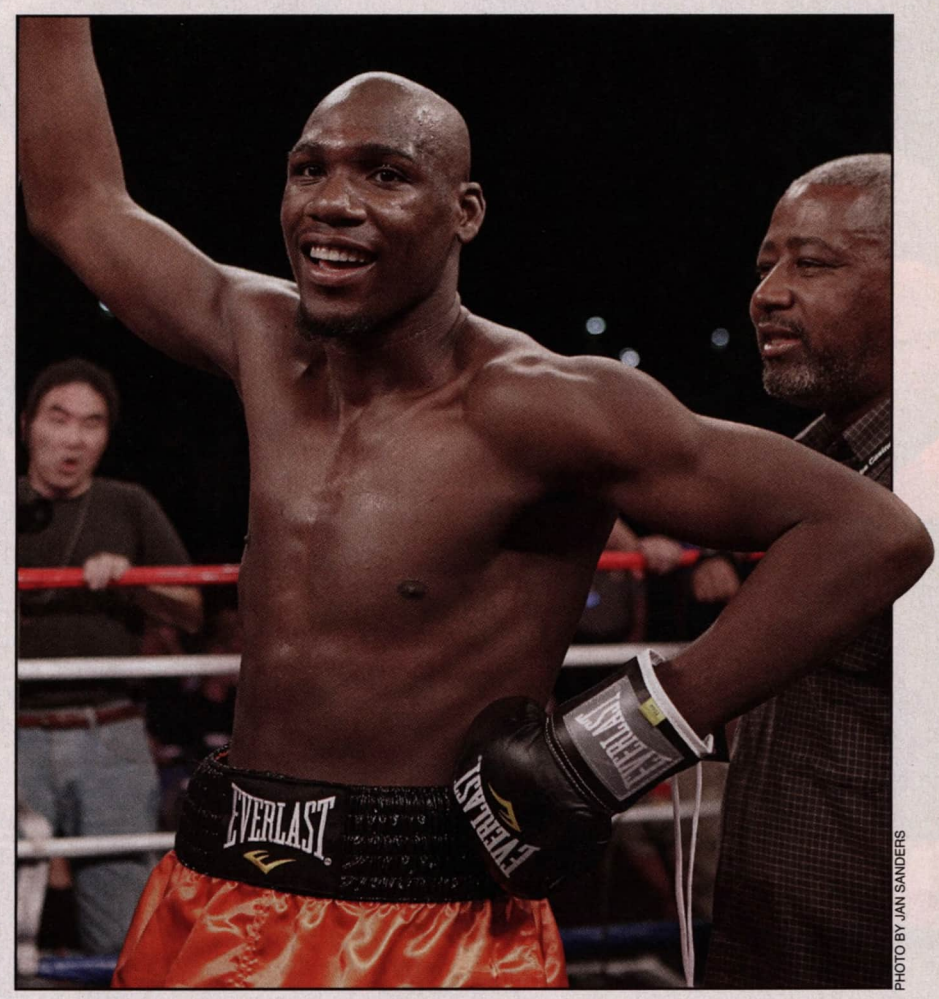


PHOTO BY JAN SANDERS

Paul Williams drills Kermit Cintron a left to the face during their May 8, 2010, fight, in Carson, California. Too bad the fight lasted just four rounds. It had just begun to heat up when Cintron flew through the ropes and landed ringside, giving Williams a fourth-round technical victory.

PHOTO BY CRAIG BENNETT/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Paul Williams drills Kermit Cintron a left to the face during their May 8, 2010, fight, in Carson, California. Too bad the fight lasted just four rounds. It had just begun to heat up when Cintron flew through the ropes and landed ringside, giving Williams a fourth-round technical victory.

PHOTO BY CRAIG BENNETT/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ JR.

Middleweight/Junior Middleweight

41-0-1 (30) with 1 no-contest

TALENT: His detractors won't admit it, but the offspring of Mexico's greatest fighter has developed some skills. Julio Jr. has always had a good hook to the body—he was probably throwing it in the crib, breaking the ribs of teddy bears—but in recent bouts he's shown other talents, including a powerful and accurate right hand that he cracks like a whip. He has decent power and came very close to knocking out John Duddy in his most recent bout. Duddy is as durable as any fighter around, and the fact that Chavez came close to stopping him shows that Chavez has some deceptively heavy hands. Chavez' defense is only fair, but, so far, he has shown an ability to take a punch. His opponents may take him lightly because he's baby-faced and doesn't appear physically strong, but he's always coming forward, willing to dig on the inside. **Grade: B+**

ACHIEVEMENT: He's come a long way from his 2003 debut as a scrawny 130-pounder. Now, he's a strapping 24-year-old middleweight. He's survived some rugged moments while plumping up his record on a host of journeymen and unknowns. A few of the decisions that went his way were jeered and his critics will never give him a break, but he's kept his focus and has never pouted or acted like a brat. His greatest achievement, in fact, may be that he has kept a cool head while under tremendous scrutiny. He has learned a lot on the job, considering he had no amateur career, and has shown great poise while enduring endless questions about being the son of "J.C." So many predicted the legacy of the family name would be too much for him. They were wrong. If anything, he seems kind of psyched to carry on after his dad. **Grade: B**

MARKETABILITY: This is a no-brainer. You can't deny the 24-year-old has charisma. He'll always be a big draw in Mexico and he's slowly building his name in America too. A small scandal brewed when Chavez was found to have taken an illegal diuretic to lose weight for a 2009 bout against Troy Rowland in Nevada. Chavez was fined $10,000 and suspended for seven months. The incident shouldn't harm him in the long run. **Grade: A**

SUPPORT SYSTEM: Promoter Bob Arum was beside himself with joy after Chavez beat Duddy, but, while it's nice to have a sycophantic presence like Arum behind you, the real key to Chavez' success is the recent addition of Freddie Roach to his corner. They'd only been together for five weeks prior to the Duddy bout. With more time, Chavez could improve immeasurably under Roach's guidance. **Grade: A**

GROWTH POTENTIAL: He still needs some seasoning, but there are undoubtedly some big-money fights in his future. If the weight can be agreed upon, a bout with Top Rank stablemate Miguel Cotto would fire up ticket buyers. Arum has also mentioned a possible bout with Kelly Pavlik in Cowboys Stadium. **Grade: A-**

PHOTO BY ROBERT HUGHES/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

MIGUEL COTTO

WBA Junior Middleweight Titleholder/Welterweight

35-2 (28)

TALENT: During his impressive prime years, Cotto was a talented ring technician with a good body attack, decent power, and very good hand speed. His combination punching was a beautiful sight to behold and the relentlessness of his attack could be breathtaking. He was also as gutsy as any fighter of the past decade. On the downside, he'd been hurt many times, he'd suffered some bad cuts, and had been kayoed twice. Enter Emanuel Steward, the old master of resurrection himself. Steward has set about correcting the bad habits Cotto has fallen into, and, for the Yuri Foreman fight last June, Cotto looked somewhat rejuvenated, although it wasn't exactly the return to form Cotto's supporters trumpeted it to be. It was simply a nice little TKO over a feather-fisted rabbinical student with a bad knee. We're not sure how Cotto will hold up against a two-legged opponent who hits harder than a roundcard girl. **Grade: A-**

ACHIEVEMENT: Cotto had excellent runs as WBO junior welterweight titlist and WBA welterweight titlist, beating the likes of Shane Mosley and Zab Judah before running into the possibly loaded gloves of Antonio Margarito. Last year, Cotto was given a serious beating by Manny Pacquiao, stopped in the 12th after being dropped twice and dominated most of the bout. That happened to be Cotto's first defense of the WBO welterweight title he'd been given in 2009 after beating Michael Jennings. The win over Foreman, a ninth-round TKO that earned Cotto the WBA 154-pound belt, was a nice balm. **Grade: A-**

MARKETABILITY: He'll always be a favorite on HBO and has nobly filled the position of Puerto Rico's top fighter since the heyday of Felix Trinidad. Still, he's not quite the superstar we thought he'd be. The widely hyped Foreman bout drew a disappointing 20,272 to Yankee Stadium, which could mean 1) New York fans weren't particularly interested in the bout, 2) fans were not as thrilled about a fight at Yankee Stadium as Top Rank had hoped, or 3) Cotto's recent losses cost him some fanbase. **Grade: B**

SUPPORT SYSTEM: Cotto's trouble in the ring seemed to coincide with ever increasing turmoil in his camp. Well-documented problems with his uncle/trainer Evangelista Cotto finally came to a head in 2008 with his firing, and the death of Cotto's father last year may have finally brought a long, family saga to a close. Top Rank still has belief in Cotto, but it feels measured. Steward could be the sort of calm, stabilizing force that could help pull things together. **Grade: B+**

GROWTH POTENTIAL: Was the win over Foreman a sign that good times are ahead or just a temporary break in what seems a slow, downward spiral? We predict one more big fight for the soon to be 30-year-old Cotto, and we think he'll still draw well with a quality opponent. **Grade: A-**

PHOTO BY AL BELLO/GETTY IMAGES

Miguel Cotto tears into the courageous Yuri Foreman in boxing's highly anticipated return to Yankee Stadium the night of June 5, 2010, in New York City. Cotto annexed the WBA super welterweight title by stopping Foreman in the ninth.

PHOTO BY ED MULHOLLAND/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

FLOYD MAYWEATHER

Welterweight

41-0 (25)

TALENT: He might be the only fighter working today who could be described as an artist, but he tends to work in miniature rather than create epics. The 33-year-old doesn't use his legs as he once did; he's content to stand in front of opponents and make them miss with his superb defensive skills. He complements his slipperiness with a sharp right lead, a good left hook, and an underappreciated ability to punch to the body. As he gets older, we can anticipate a more traditional approach, with more body punches and inside fighting. Many defensive fighters, from Pernell Whitaker to Bernard Hopkins, have become grinders as they aged, and we might see the same from Mayweather. His power is adequate—Ricky Hatton learned you cannot walk blindly into Floyd's left hook—and his ring generalship is unparalleled. **Grade: A**

ACHIEVEMENT: Since his return from "retirement," Mayweather has put in two commanding performances, winning unanimous decisions over an undersized Juan Manual Marquez and a game but slightly faded Shane Mosley. Mosley gave Mayweather some hairy moments in the second round of their bout, cracking him with a few hard rights to the jaw. Mayweather rode out the storm and went on to win the bout easily. The winner of THE RING championship at lightweight and welterweight, plus six alphabet belts from junior lightweight to junior middleweight, Mayweather is one of the most decorated fighters of modern times as well as a successful pay-per-view attraction. **Grade: A**

MARKETABILITY: Mayweather has done well for a fighter of this era, but his "crossover" appeal has probably peaked. Unless he gets into a major bout, we probably won't see much of him outside of HBO. Still, HBO should be enough for him (and us.) **Grade: A-**

SUPPORT SYSTEM: Although the core of the Mayweather camp remains solid—advisors Leonard Ellerbe and Al Haymon aren't jumping off the gravy train anytime soon—and Golden Boy Promotions has happily aligned with Mayweather, there are problems concerning his uncle/trainer Roger, who has been embroiled in legal trouble all year. Should Roger end up "going away for a while," the ubiquitous Floyd Sr. may step in to oversee Mayweather's training. Mayweather was also questioned by Las Vegas police last year after a shooting incident involving an acquaintance. Still, when one considers Mayweather's love of gambling, his mouthy attitude, his hip-hop background, his own collection of guns and bulletproof vests, and his financial woes (he paid $5.6-million to the IRS last September), he's actually surprised us by the degree that he has stayed out of trouble. **Grade: B+**

GROWTH POTENTIAL: Whether or not there actually were negotiations for a November fight with Manny Pacquiao is immaterial at this point. Mayweather will not fight again until 2011. As far as growth goes, it's not like he needs a job. **Grade: B+**

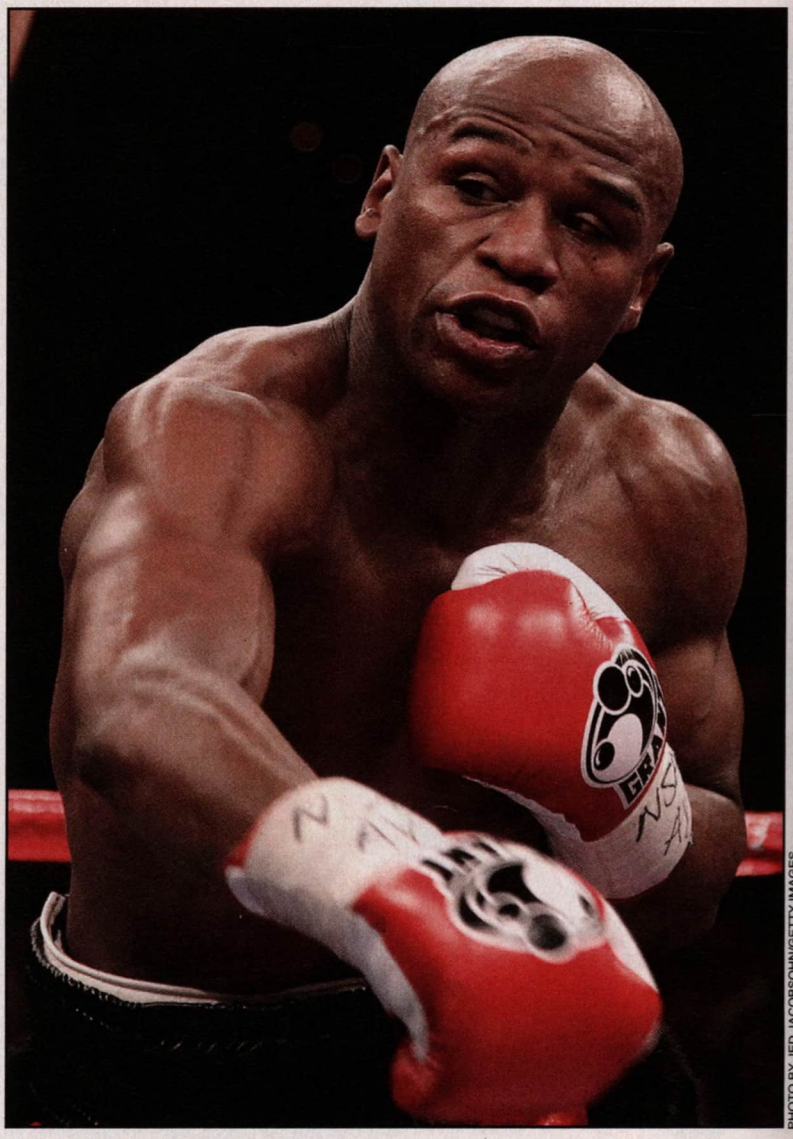


PHOTO BY JED JACOBSOHN/GETTY IMAGES

MANNY PACQUIAO

Welterweight

51-3-2 (38)

TALENT: Pacquiao may go down in history as one of the following: the greatest southpaw of all time, the greatest Filipino fighter of all time, or the most important fighter since the Muhammad Ali era. He's done it with a blazingly fast left hand, great footwork, a determination to win that is above anyone else's in the game, and a willingness to improve his technique. Watching him go from being an awkward, free-swinging knockout artist of the early-2000s to the crafty ring stylist we see today has been one of the greatest pleasures a fight journalist could experience. **Grade: A**

PHOTO BY JED JACOBSOHN/GETTY IMAGES

ACHIEVEMENT: He's won boxing titles in seven weight divisions, including RING belts at featherweight, junior lightweight, and junior welterweight, and was our Fighter of the Year three times. He's had hit records on the Filipino pop charts, starred in Filipino movies, and is currently holding a seat in the Filipino congress. He's still sitting atop THE RING's pound-for-pound list and is our number two-ranked welterweight. Since last year's All-Star list, he TKO'd Miguel Cotto in 12, and then, before more than 50,000 fans at Cowboys Stadium, he put on a boxing clinic against Joshua Clottey, winning by unanimous decision. The poor boy from the streets of General Santos City grew up to be a cross between Joe Louis and Arnold Schwarzenegger, with a little bit of Elvis thrown in. **Grade: A+**

MARKETABILITY: Many people were puzzled by Pacquiao's refusal of random drug tests, which caused the cancellation of a fight with Floyd Mayweather last January. But if and when he agrees to Mayweather's demands, and should he beat Mayweather, all will be forgotten. In the meantime, you can't turn on a TV set or walk past a billboard in the Philippines without seeing his face. Pacquiao enjoys a crossover appeal that Mayweather can only dream about. **Grade: A+**

SUPPORT SYSTEM: The bedrock of Pacquiao's success is his relationship with trainer Freddie Roach, and Bob Arum continues to think big as Pacquiao's promoter. After enduring an ever-increasing, ever-changing boardroom of advisors and managers, Pacquiao has stuck with Michael Koncz, who has acted as his chief advisor for five or six years. Some feel Pacquiao's political career may add to the chaos and distraction around him, but Pacquiao seems to be above the chaos, as if he's guided by celestial forces. His family life also seems very solid, and his coterie of pals from the Philippines has become a delight to watch on HBO. Assistant trainer "Buboy" Fernandez is Pacquiao's Bundini Brown. **Grade: A**

GROWTH POTENTIAL: Pacquiao, 31, has promised his mother that he'll fight only once more, while Koncz has insisted Pacquiao will continue to fight twice a year for a while. When it became clear that Floyd Mayweather had no interest in fighting Pacquiao in November, Arum wasted no time arranging a match between Manny and ultra-villain Antonio Margarito. **Grade: A**

Manny Pacquiao hammers the reluctant-to-fight Joshua Clottey in a bout that drew more than 50,000 to Cowboys Stadium in Dallas, Texas, on March 13, 2010. Clottey went the 12-round distance with "Pac-Man" though had little consolation aside from that.

PHOTO BY CHRIS COZZONE/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

TIMOTHY BRADLEY

Welterweight/Junior Welterweight

26-0 (11)

TALENT: The term "throwback" is used far too often, but it's a term that absolutely fits in describing Bradley's hardcore work ethic and his willingness to fight anybody. It also goes a long way in describing Bradley's attention to the subtleties of the fight game. The little muscleman is very good on his feet, is a sharp counterpuncher, and is very difficult to hit cleanly. He doesn't have exceptional power, but he has a nasty left hook and a strong overhand right that he throws from a crouching position. Aside from being dropped twice by Kendall Holt, he very rarely makes mistakes despite his willingness to exchange punches. He's a rare mix of intelligence and aggression. **Grade: A-**

ACHIEVEMENT: For a 26-year-old to be mentioned among the top 140-pounders in the sport is quite an accomplishment, and Bradley has done it without a ton of publicity. He quietly emerged in 2008, winning the WBC and WBO junior welterweight titles within an 11-month period. After winning nearly every round against undefeated Lamont Peterson in December '09, Bradley stepped up to welterweight and was scarily effective in winning a unanimous decision over undefeated prospect, Luis Carlos Abregu. Prior to his pro career, he was a busy amateur, competing in over 140 bouts throughout the world. **Grade: B+**

MARKETABILITY: Bradley looked squarely into the cameras after making his HBO debut by beating Abregu and called out Manny Pacquiao, Marcos Maidana, Amir Khan, and Devon Alexander. The intensity of his voice made it feel like a star-making moment. The one tiny drawback with Bradley is an ongoing problem with butting. He's already had one fight result in a no-contest because of headbutt cuts and he and Abregu cracked heads all night. That's not fun to watch, and fans will grow tired of a guy who sends too many fights to the scorecards because of butts. Otherwise, he has the ingredients of a star. Even his miniscule knockout total can't be held against him because he's aggressive in every round. **Grade: B+**

SUPPORT SYSTEM: Bradley's imposing father, Timothy Sr., serves as training guru and assistant handler during fights. This father/son duo seems to have a strong relationship, but it's sometimes discomforting to hear poppa trying to outshout head trainer Joel Diaz between rounds. Co-promoters Gary Shaw and Ken Thompson have done well by Bradley thus far in his young career, but they shouldn't forget that Bradley is managed by Cameron Dunkin, a man who has been teasingly described as a field agent for Bob Arum. **Grade: B+**

GROWTH POTENTIAL: Bradley faces the same problems as Paul Williams—he's talented, but marquee fighters have no financial incentive to fight him. A bout with Alexander or Khan is likely, though, and would be great for 2011. **Grade: A-**

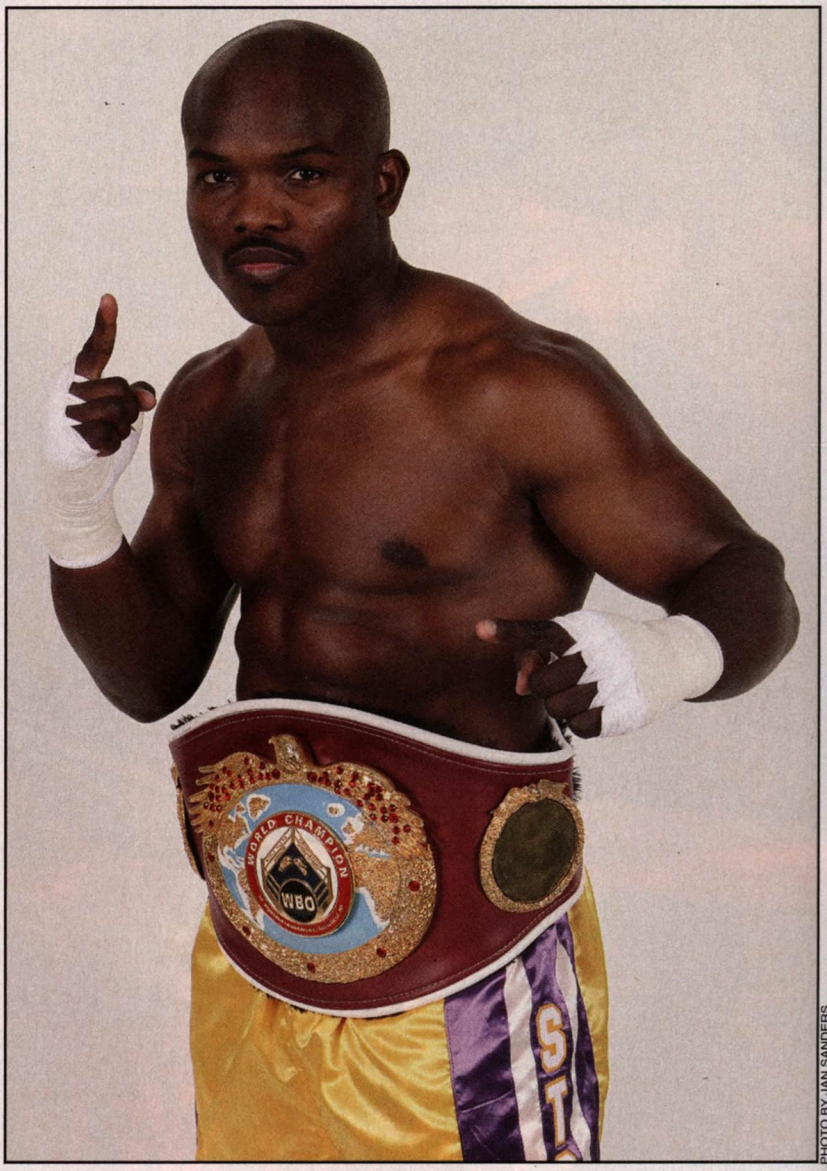


PHOTO BY JAN SANDERS

AMIR KHAN

WBA Junior Welterweight Titleholder

23-1 (17)

TALENT: As far as being in the right place at the right time, Khan couldn't have designed his career any better. A young, boyish Muslim-Brit who has been called everything from "The Muslim De La Hoya" to "The British Sugar Ray Leonard" to "a friendlier version of Naseem Hamed," Khan seemed readymade for a boxing hungry British audience. Brits looking for a new face now that Ricky Hatton and Joe Calzaghe have faded into the woodwork have embraced Khan because he can punch a bit and he's blessed with exceptional speed. Of course, there will always be doubts about his durability—losing to Breidis Prescott via first-round knockout tends to bring out the doubts in people. His critics may always dismiss Khan as just another pretty boy who was a millionaire before he'd beaten anybody, but the lad from Bolton has the goods. **Grade: A-**

ACHIEVEMENT: Khan shot out of the 2004 Olympics with a silver medal and a battery of publicists calling him boxing's newest sensation. In between red carpet events, car accidents, and the shocking loss to Prescott, Khan managed to beat some fighters, including a faded Marco Antonio Barrera. In 2009, he defeated Andriy Kotelnik for the WBA junior welterweight title, which he has defended twice. His latest and most impressive performance was an 11th-round stoppage of Paulie Malignaggi. Khan has not come close to living up to his initial hype, but at 23, he's in a very good place. **Grade: B+**

MARKETABILITY: Khan may not inspire the mania that followed Hatton, partly because his persona is much different. Unlike Hatton, Khan is not a partying pubcrawler. He seems more the *Dancing With The Stars* type. But if you've ever seen Khan with his entourage, he does have a bit of youthful swagger about him, and a few of his youthful indiscretions have made their way into the headline-happy UK press. Still, his reputation as a proud Pakistani-Muslim male has already earned him several endorsement deals in the UK, including a successful ad campaign with Reebok, which culminated in a stunning four minute 3-D film of Khan that played in UK cinemas throughout 2008-09. **Grade: A-**

SUPPORT SYSTEM: Khan remains with career-long business manager Asif Vali, but made a surprise split with his long-time British promoter Frank Warren in January 2010 to join Golden Boy Promotions. Khan was probably bit by the American bug while training at the Wild Card Gym with trainer Freddie Roach, who has worked with Khan since 2008 and has done an excellent job in making Khan a more mature, focused boxer. Roach is a tiger to have in one's corner, as Malignaggi learned when Roach slapped him with a libel suit for suggesting Khan was on performance enhancers. **Grade: A**

GROWTH POTENTIAL: If Khan can keep his chin covered, he's going to have a very fine career. He's entertaining and he's in one of the most talented divisions in the sport. **Grade: A-**

PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

Timothy Bradley rocks previously undefeated Carlos Abregu with a left hook in "Desert Storm's" welterweight debut. Bradley won a unanimous, 12-round decision in a bout held in Rancho Mirage, California, on July 17, 2010.

PHOTO BY NAOKI FUKUDA

YURIORKIS GAMBOA

WBA Featherweight Titleholder

18-0 (15)

TALENT: Many fine Cuban amateurs have fallen short when entering the pro ranks, but Gamboa seems hell-bent on changing that tired old tune. He is a dervish in the ring and is devastating with his uppercuts and short right hooks. He has drawn criticism for being knocked down on several occasions, but that's more a sign of his willingness to mix than a bad chin. Although he hasn't given up his daredevil style, he's added an improved defense to his already impressive set of skills. In recent bouts, his combination punching can best be described as "Tysonesque." **Grade: A-**

ACHIEVEMENT: After a 250-bout amateur career that saw him win four Cuban national championships and a gold medal at the 2004 Olympics, Gamboa defected from the national team with two other fighters in December 2006, hopping from Venezuela to Colombia to Miami. He has been well received on ESPN, Showtime, and HBO, even if he has sometimes appeared reckless, and in 2009 he won the WBA featherweight title. Rogers Mtagwa, a capable journeyman who has been in with some good fighters, was absolutely no match for Gamboa in their January 2010 bout. **Grade: B+**

MARKETABILITY: Hardcore fans know him, but smaller fighters don't see real paydays unless they can hyphenate their names with another opponent, a la Barrera-Morales or Vazquez-Marquez. In that regard, Gamboa's marketability is tied in with Juan Manuel Lopez, his Top Rank stablemate and fellow featherweight titlist. If those two can spawn a series, then Gamboa stands to become as big a name as any of the top featherweights of the past two decades. **Grade: A-**

SUPPORT SYSTEM: Top Rank co-promotes Gamboa with Germany-based Arena Box Promotion, which is why Gamboa made a recent title defense in Hamburg. Ahmet Oener is the head of Arena Box and acts as Gamboa's manager as well as his promoter overseas. Oener's no-nonsense style was exemplified when he fired trainer Osmiri Fernandez in the dressing room after Gamboa's bout with Darling Jimenez, simply because Gamboa had suffered a flash knockdown in the bout. Since then, the training duties have been handled by Ismael Salas, a Thailand-based Cuban who has trained the Thailand national team and is known for turning Aussie slugger Danny Green into a more composed fighter. Gamboa's recent improvement can certainly be attributed to Salas' input. **Grade: A-**

GROWTH POTENTIAL: Gamboa is already 28, so if he's to do any growing, he'd better do it soon. Beyond Lopez, there could be good bouts with Celestino Caballero or Chris John, although Top Rank may not match Gamboa too hard while waiting for Lopez-Gamboa to ripen. **Grade: A-**

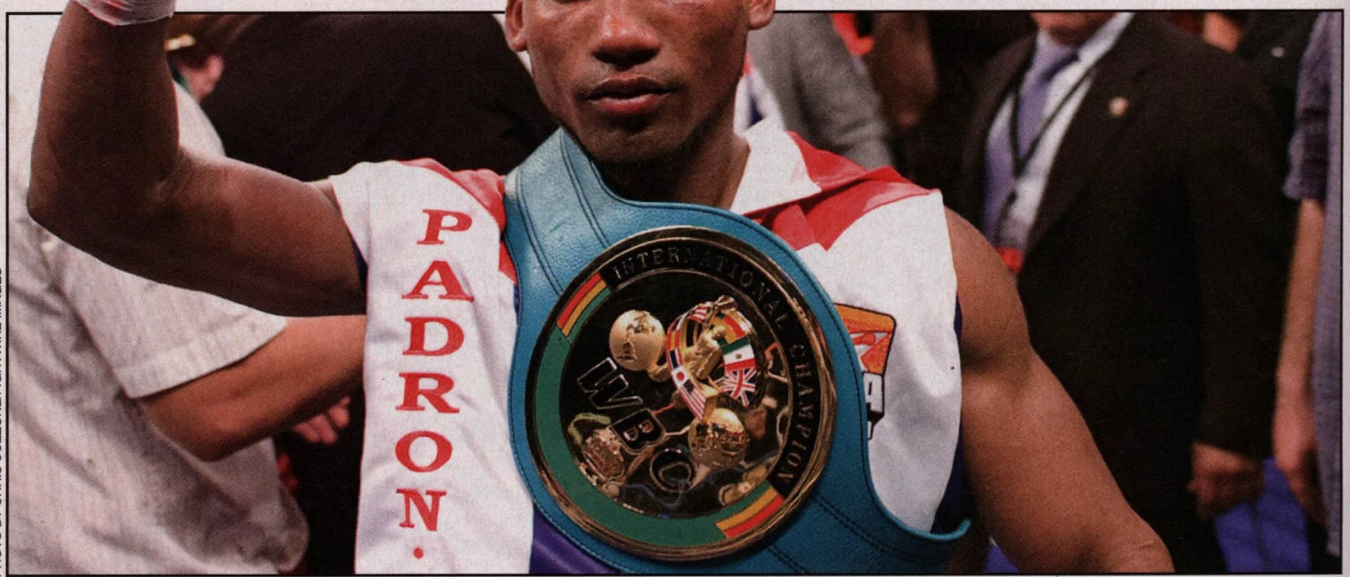


PHOTO BY CHRIS COZZONE/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

JUAN MANUEL LOPEZ

Featherweight

29-0 (26)

TALENT: His porous defense may someday cost him in a big way, but we sense Lopez doesn't want to be remembered as a defensive genius. Southpaw Lopez goes for the knockout the way "Big Papi" David Ortiz goes for the last-inning home run. A classic boxer-puncher, Lopez is so confident in his ability to dispatch an opponent with either hand that he sometimes forgets that fighters might hit back. This has created something of a roller-coaster effect during his recent fights, and, while this may play havoc with Bob Arum's nerves, we're happy to get onboard. **Grade: A-**

ACHIEVEMENT: Lopez rang up three more victories since making 2009's All-Star list and passed some serious tests along the way. First, his undefeated streak nearly ended at the hands of gallant journeyman Rogers Mtagwa. Out on his feet during the bout's final moments, Lopez showed exceptional survival instincts (and a touch of desperation) to hang on to win a unanimous decision. Feeling he'd outgrown the 122-pound ranks, Lopez stepped up in weight to challenge Steve Luevano for the WBO featherweight title, winning by TKO. Most recently Lopez scored an electrifying second-round stoppage of Bernabe Concepcion, but only after being dropped himself in the opening round. Lopez, who started boxing at age 10 and amassed an amateur record of 126-24, has become one of the few "must see" fighters working today. We should've seen it coming when he won the WBO junior featherweight belt in 2008 by starching the durable Daniel Ponce De Leon in one round. **Grade: B+**

MARKETABILITY: A Puerto Rican puncher is gold, especially a good-natured one such as Lopez. He's developed a good following on the East Coast, and, judging by the crowd reaction in Puerto Rico when he defeated Concepcion, "JuanMa" may soon leapfrog over fellow Caguas native Miguel Cotto in terms of popularity. The grinning Lopez is definitely closer in personality to Felix Trinidad, as opposed to the dour Cotto, which will no doubt make Lopez more popular in Puerto Rico as his career progresses. **Grade: A-**

SUPPORT SYSTEM: Top Rank has done a good job getting Lopez above the radar, keeping him active, and matching him with strong opponents. The more immediate Lopez team consists of Alex Caraballo (who has trained Lopez since the beginning of his career), assistant trainer Victor Martinez, and no-nonsense manager Antonio Pinero. Another valuable player in Lopez' circle is Puerto Rican icon Trinidad, whose steady friendship with Lopez can be seen as a kind of passing of the torch from one Puerto Rican slugger to another. **Grade: A**

GROWTH POTENTIAL: If Lopez gets past the aging but dangerous Rafael Marquez in September, a bout with Top Rank stablemate Yuriorkis Gamboa is on the shortlist of fights we'd like to see. Top Rank has been building up to that one carefully, and both fighters have done their part to whet our appetites. **Grade: A**

PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

NONITO DONAIRE

Junior Bantamweight

24-1 (16)

TALENT: "The Filipino Flash," currently ranked number four on THE RING's pound-for-pound list, owns one of the most potent left hands in the business and is one of the smartest counterpunchers around. He has also shown an ability to switch from righty to lefty, but, as we saw in his recent win over Hernan Marquez, a bout that saw him stubbornly stay in southpaw mode for the entirety of the first four rounds, he's much more destructive when fighting from the orthodox stance. Another troubling trend is Donaire's new tendency to forget boxing and throw bombs, making some of his recent bouts tougher than they needed to be. **Grade: A**

ACHIEVEMENT: Donaire moved up in weight and stayed busy these past 12 months with a tough unanimous decision win over Rafael Concepcion (for the WBA "interim" junior bantamweight belt), a third-round stoppage of Manuel Vargas, and an eighth round stoppage of Marquez. Unfortunately, boxing politics have frustrated Donaire in his efforts to secure a big-money fight. To his credit, Donaire has remained active and has beaten the opponents put in front of him. **Grade: A-**

MARKETABILITY: He's been featured on Top Rank's "Pinoy Power" pay-per-views and on Showtime, but exposing smaller fighters to a wide audience will always be an uphill endeavor in the US. As far as Pinoy pugs go, Donaire is second to Manny Pacquiao, but it's a distant second. The Philippine press, which is heavy on gossip, depicts Donaire as a sort of cocky, outspoken kid, which is at odds with the God-like man-of-the-people status given to Pacquiao. Worst of all, the excitement Donaire generated with his surprise knockout of Vic Darchinyan in 2007 has just about dissipated. **Grade: B+**

SUPPORT SYSTEM: The recent addition of Robert Garcia to Donaire's corner raised some eyebrows in the Philippines, for Garcia had been training Brian Viloria, conqueror of Donaire in the amateurs. Some saw the hiring as simply a power play on Donaire's part. Other sources suggested Garcia was brought in to take control of a training camp that lacked an anchoring voice. Camp turmoil is nothing new for Donaire. He traded Gary Shaw for Bob Arum in 2008 and dropped his father/trainer for the Penalosa brothers. But none of these changes have advanced his career to any noticeable degree. Longtime manager Cameron Dunkin remains Donaire's biggest supporter, keeping a degree of optimism even as Donaire seems stymied by promoter squabbles and red tape. Even Donaire's health has been under siege. Along with suffering a hand injury against Concepcion, he underwent a scary bout of dengue fever last year. **Grade: A-**

GROWTH POTENTIAL: When discussing Donaire's future, Top Rank throws a lot of names in the air, everyone from Darchinyan to Jorge Arce to "JuanMa" Lopez. Dunkin feels Donaire can compete with featherweights and not lose his punch. First, let's see him punch his way out of the career quagmire he's in. **Grade: B**

PHOTO BY JUNIE DOCTOR/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

PONGSAKLEK WONJONGKAM

Flyweight Champion

76-3-1 (40)

TALENT: Thailand's living legend is an intelligent, fluid fighter who has mastered the basics of boxing and executes them with businesslike precision. A southpaw with better than average power, one of Wonjongkam's favorite tactics is a combination to the body followed by a fast uppercut to the chin. The savvy ring technician is gutsy too. A 2002 bout with journeyman Ronnie Canete saw Wonjongkam dropped and nearly kayoed in the first round, but he regrouped and knocked Canete out in the third. **Grade: A**

ACHIEVEMENT: Although many of his opponents could be politely referred to as "less than challenging," Wonjongkam has had enough career highlights that we'll forgive the large number of tomato cans on his record. For instance, Wonjongkam won the WBC flyweight title by beating Malcolm Tunacao in March 2001 and held the belt until July 2007, setting a record of 17 successful defenses. Wonjongkam's four-bout series with Daisuke Naito began with Wonjongkam scoring a spectacular 34-second knockout of Naito in 2002, the quickest knockout in flyweight title history. Wonjongkam defeated Naito again in 2005, but Naito defeated Wonjongkam for the title in 2007, ending Wonjongkam's 55-fight undefeated streak. In 2008, the two rivals fought to a draw. In March 2010, Wonjongkam added to his legend by journeying to Tokyo to defeat the notorious Koki Kameda via majority decision, regaining the WBC title and winning THE RING championship in the process. **Grade: A**

MARKETABILITY: Smaller fighters like Vic Darchinyan, Nonito Donaire, and Jorge Arce grabbed a little bit of the American spotlight in recent years, but not so with Wonjongkam. Coming from the rice fields of Korat to become an almost iconic figure in Thailand, Wonjongkam could've worked well on America's story-heavy TV. He's also a quietly charismatic character who doesn't shy away from the spotlight. Regrettably, Wonjongkam has remained in the Far East, fighting opponents mandated by the WBC. Wonjongkam has, though, found financial success in Japan, where he has made decent money via television rights. It's doubtful he could cut the same sort of deals with American networks. **Grade: B**

SUPPORT SYSTEM: Thai promoter/manager Virat Vachiratanawongse has been accused of overprotecting Wonjongkam, luring unsuspecting challengers to Thailand where they wilt in the Bangkok heat. Some feel that Wonjongkam would have already fought in America if not for the headstrong Vachiratanawongse. In Thai culture, however, a fighter is essentially working at the whim of his promoter. Considering that Wonjongkam has picked up some good paydays for a flyweight (in the $500,000 range), the arrangement seems to be working. From an American perspective, the alliance may appear stifling, but, in Thailand, it's de rigueur. **Grade: B+**

GROWTH POTENTIAL: At 32, Wonjongkam has said he wants to fight once in America before he retires, but it's unlikely. A fifth bout with Naito would create interest in Tokyo, as would a rematch with Kameda. From there, Wonjongkam seems a lock for the International Boxing Hall of Fame. **Grade: B**

PHOTO BY KAZUHIRO NOGI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

CAN CHAVEZ JR. LIVE UP TO DAD'S LEGACY?

Junior Certainly Showed Promise Against Duddy

By William Dettloff
PHOTOS BY ROBERT HUGHES/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

The biggest surprise to come out of Julio Cesar Chavez Jr.'s win over John Duddy in June should not have been how much better Chavez allegedly was as compared to previous performances. Whether he actually is better now than before is a matter of conjecture to be explored later.

No, the real surprise was that even by night's end, Duddy's famously delicate and handsome face, despite the steady pounding it received, wasn't pumping scarlet plasma into the San Antonio night like so much crude oil into the Gulf of Mexico.

This is not to say that Junior isn't a prodigious enough puncher to bloody up Duddy like others have, or that somehow Duddy too was better than he'd been before. Skin can be temperamental that way, but try telling that to generations of Irish and other fair-skinned, sharp-boned pugs whose fragile capillaries burst apart every time at the first hint of insult.

Chavez didn't have to cover the canvas in crimson to change the tide of sentiment that was riding against him, most of it held by fight game snobs (see "media") who refused to believe that a kid with no amateur fights needed 40 pro bouts before he was good enough to go in with someone as basic and easy to hit as Duddy.

It wasn't possible either that the progeny of a fighter as great as the peerless Julio Cesar Chavez could be anything more than the gimmick of yet another greedy promoter ringing dry the moldy rag of nostalgia. And really, you couldn't blame the cynics for that. Of all the many sons (and, regrettably, daughters) of men who have fought at a high level and have thus been compelled to try to do the same, no more than a small handful can be described in words more favorable than mediocre, timid, or, to put it charitably, insincere.

Indeed, a short while before Chavez beat Duddy by commanding decision in front of a reported 8,172 at the Alamodome, Sal Sanchez II, purportedly the nephew of featherweight great Salvador Sanchez—with the telltale afro and little else to recommend him—was more or less manhandled by Tomas Villa over eight rounds. That Sanchez tried hard until the end and didn't

crash at the first sign that it would be a rough night marks him as something of a rare bird among his breed.

And certainly Chavez' previous outing, a dismal decision win over club fighter Troy Rowland, after which Chavez was suspended for testing positive for a diuretic, did little to sway those who believed he was the latest in a long line of circus acts created by Bob Arum. Arum, you will recall, is the one who not terribly long ago gave us the wonderful twin gifts to boxing that were Mia St. John and Butterbean. So there was precedent.

Regardless, this much is true: Chavez met the best fighter of his career and turned in what could be seen as his best performance. That is not insignificant.

"Chavez seemed to me to really make a quantum leap in that fight," veteran broadcaster Barry Tompkins, who called the fight for Top Rank pay-per-view, told THE RING. "Not only in terms of his ring savvy, but he did step up in terms of his opponent. It is perfectly fair to say that Duddy is by far the toughest guy he's fought. I think he came in there with an idea of how he was going to win and took the fight away from Duddy. He showed a lot more maturity than I thought he had."

On that point, opinion would seem unanimous. Saddled with the reputation of being a lazy, half-ass worker in the gym—a characterization whose accuracy Arum asserted in the weeks leading up to the fight—Chavez, 40-0-1 (30), started against Duddy in an unusual posture for him: moving and jabbing from the outside.

This was no doubt the influence of "Trainer To The Stars" Freddie Roach,

Chavez looked his most impressive against his toughest foe to date in dismantling Duddy (above). Junior defied a few of the media cynics who labeled him nothing more than another Bob Arum creation by moving, jabbing, and pulverizing Duddy with a mixture of punches.

who took over Junior's training just four weeks before the fight and promptly said he wanted him to work more from the outside, where he could use his height and reach. Chavez, Roach said, fought too much like his father. *If only.*

At any rate, after three rounds of letting Duddy, 29-2 (18), walk into looping right hands and left hooks (as opposed to walking him *into* those punches, and there is a difference, boys and girls), Chavez, 160, let his genes take over and started backing up Duddy, Derry, Ireland, with more hooks and right hands. Each one that landed made a sound that approximates a wet sponge hitting the sidewalk.

As most of us know and with apologies to Billy Conn: When you've got an Irish fighter going in reverse, your work is almost done. Chavez, Culiacan, Sinaloa, Mexico, was wobbled with a hard right hand in the sixth but otherwise remained in control, even if Duddy, 159, never gave up and, in some rounds, gave almost as good as he got.

"John is the toughest fighter I've faced so far," Chavez, 24, said later. "He kept the pressure on and really pushed me farther than I've been to this point in my career. But I knew coming in that he was going to be challenging, and I was happy to walk away with the victory."

The scoring, which was non-controversial by Texas standards, was 116-112, rendered by Glen Crocker, 117-111 from Julie Lederman, and a fairly ridiculous 120-108 from Juergen Langos, who found not a single round to give Duddy. (THE RING scored it 117-111).

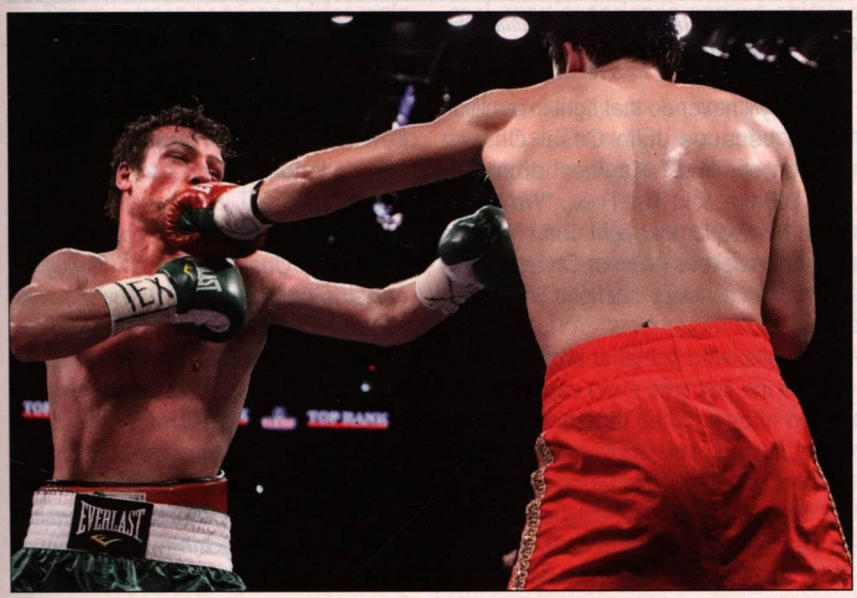
Chavez withstood a few Duddy barrages, like absorbing the Irishman's left uppercut. "John is the toughest fighter I've faced so far," Chavez said after the fight. "He kept the pressure on and really pushed me farther than I've been to this point in my career."

Another curiosity was the appointment of referee Jon Schorle, whose appearance in a bigger fight could only mean that Lawrence Cole, son of Texas commissioner Dickie Cole, had been kidnapped and was being held by guerillas somewhere on the other side of the world.

The only thing that assured the judges of a meaningful night's work in the end was the admirable obstinacy of Duddy, who, at a still relatively young 31, has taken a volume of punches in the last several years disproportionate to his age. It is regrettable that a fighter as polite and well-mannered as he is cursed with such stubborn mediocrity.

"Julio fought a good fight. There was a lot of pressure on him and he performed and answered all the questions I asked of him," Duddy said afterward. "I took him into deep water. And yes, he can swim."

What remains to be seen is if the same will be true when Chavez' competition gets stiffer than Duddy, and let's face it, a fight against anyone in the top 10 at 160 or 154 will be a considerable upgrade. It is worth mentioning only in passing that the WBC laughably made Chavez the recipient of a ranking that puts him in position for a shot at the excellent Sergio Martinez, its top-rated junior middleweight and THE RING middleweight world champion. Even Chavez' most ardent supporters wouldn't push for that fight.



By the fourth round, Chavez Jr. had Duddy right where he wanted him, sticking him with the jab and backing him up. Junior left little doubt when the scorecards were read.

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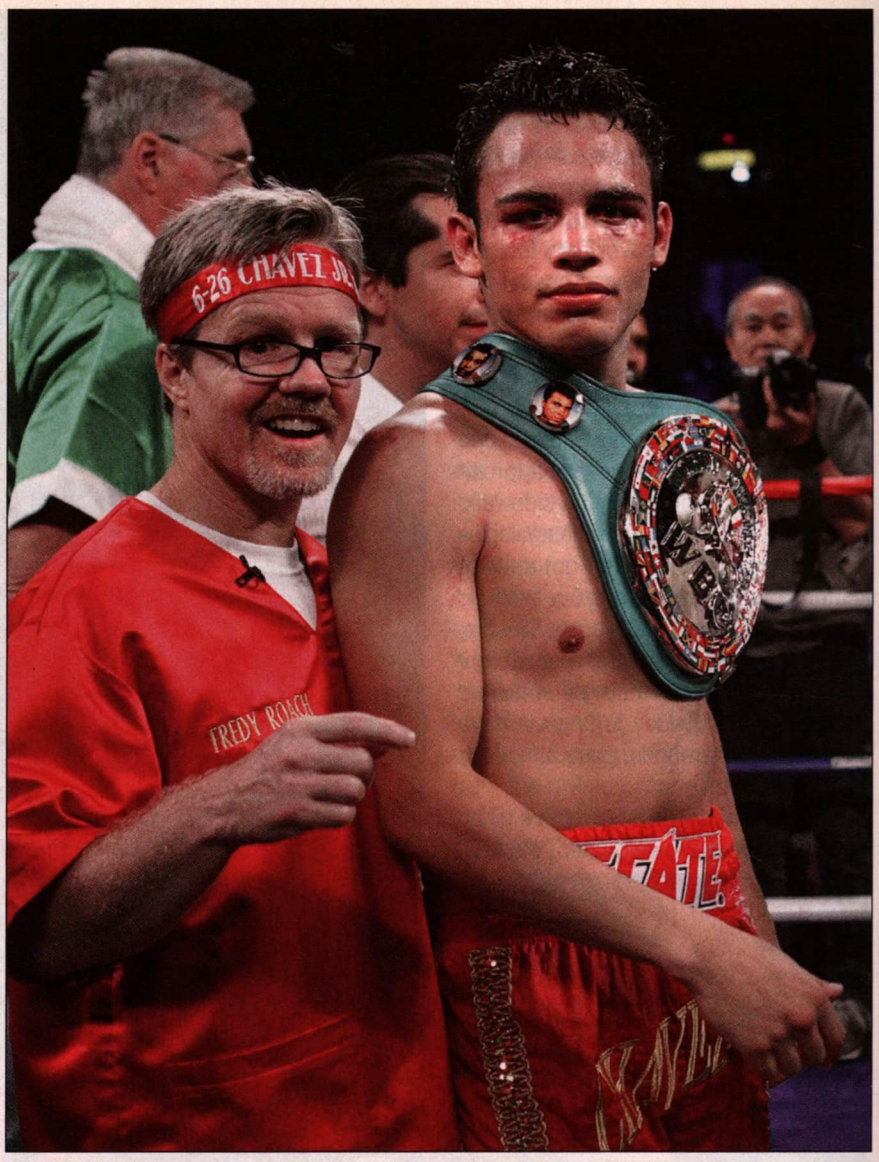

Chavez Jr. and acclaimed trainer Freddie Roach made a nice team, considering they were only together for four weeks prior to the Duddy fight. Roach had questions about Junior too, but all parties seemed pleased by the final result.

"They'll never do that fight in a million years because Julio Cesar Chavez would get killed," Martinez' promoter, Lou DiBella, told THE RING. "We would go to Mexico for that fight. But I have no reason to believe Arum or Chavez' brain trust would consider that fight. That fight's a murder."

DiBella, who in that analysis (and for maybe the first time ever) cannot be accused of overstating the point, said if it were up to him, he would match Chavez with the son of another legend.

"Do you want to put equivalent talent in the ring and have a huge promotion? Why not Chavez and Ronald Hearns with their fathers, who are real legends, in the background?" DiBella said. "Look, Chavez is an attraction and I don't think he's talented. I don't blame the people of Mexico for embracing him, he's the son of a legend."

That may seem harsh to some, but as well as Chavez handled Duddy, he remains a work in need of serious investment if he is to come close to fulfilling the wishes the Mexican people have for him. Forget about attaining the fistic status his father reached; fighters like Chavez Sr. come along once a generation if we're lucky.

Junior, while demonstrating against Duddy a nifty step to the right to set up right hands, is far from a technician or a thinking fighter. For one, he is straight up-and-down, with very little upper-body

It seems like father and son share a little more than a name, and Mexican fight fans hope that Junior can capture the greatness of his father. Junior still needs to be tested against better opposition. Though many don't think he's ready, the WBC made him middleweight world champion Sergio Martinez' mandatory.

movement or bend at the knee. His defense is predicated solely on blocking punches with his gloves. Okay for a clubber of Duddy's ilk, but against any worthwhile 154 or 160-pounder, a little head movement goes a long way.

Roach, whose services Junior maintains he solicited independently, is credited with improving Chavez' conditioning and focus, which Junior's former trainers, uncles Miguel Molleda and Rodolfo Chavez, were apparently loath to do. This is not hard to imagine: The elder Chavez was hardly a Spartan when it came to training and soared to heavenly heights nevertheless. He was a natural wonder.

Junior appears not to be, based on Roach's statements early in camp that the kid was having trouble mastering the moves Roach showed him as they worked the pads. But as camp wound down, the trainer seemed satisfied with his new student's progress.

"There were a lot of warning signs about how he is lazy and doesn't want to work, and would he last a week with me?" Roach said.

"[But] he is a great kid, great to work with and is very disciplined. He gets up in the morning and does his roadwork every day, comes in the gym and sparred up to 12 rounds with three sparring partners. Overall it was a real good experience and we enjoyed each other's company and it was a pleasure."

Interestingly, Junior contradicted reports that Chavez Sr. was unhappy with his son's decision to leave his uncles for Roach.

"We had talked about it, and he said that maybe I needed somebody to take me to the next level," Junior said before the fight. "We had thought about some guys and thinking about doing something.

"When I told him about Freddie Roach, he got very excited," Chavez continued. "Freddie is not going to waste his time with a nobody or someone that has no talent. By Freddie taking me, my father felt that Freddie gave me confidence that he would take me to that next level. He is very happy."

In the crush of bodies that flowed into the ring following Junior's win over Duddy, the elder Chavez, looking waxen and puffy in a black tux and mandatory red "Team Chavez" headband, gave and received his share of hugs. But there came a moment not long into the celebration when the old "Lion of Culiacan" stood alone across the ring, watching his son take in the cheers and adulation.

They used to cheer for him that way, of course. He was a king everywhere he went in Mexico. There was no one bigger. The people loved him. No, it was more than that. More than love. They worshipped him.

They still did, of course. But it wasn't the same. He wasn't the same.

And it was hard to know, as Julio Cesar Chavez watched his son bask in the glory of his first big win, if it made the father proud or hurt him more than any right cross or left hook ever did. Or both.

Either way, if Freddie Roach can do for Junior what he has for Manny Pacquiao, among others, the rejoicing in Mexico will be loud and long-lasting. ■

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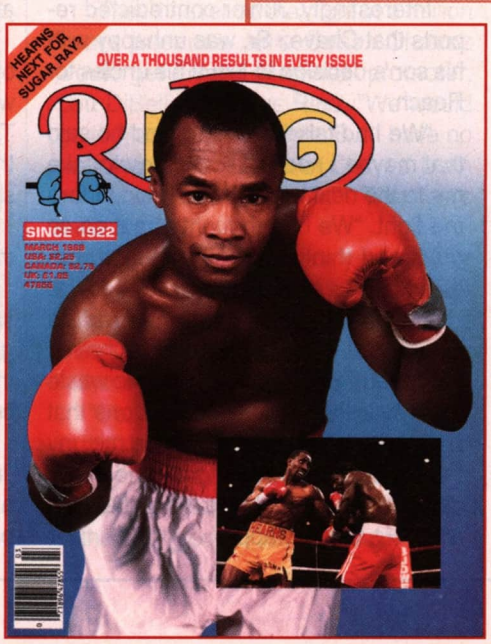

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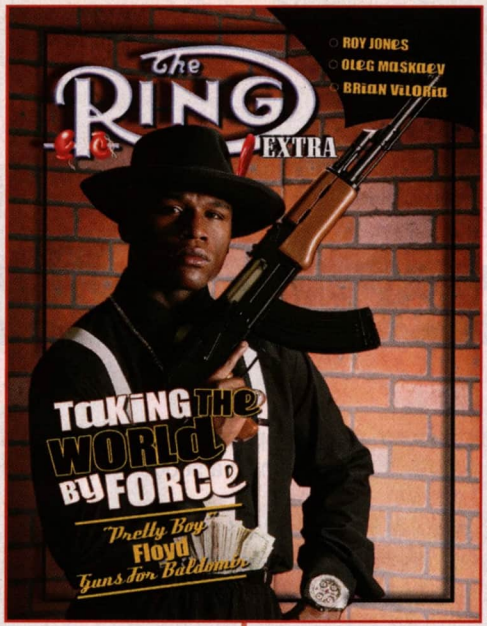

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A MAN NAMED DOG

El Perro's Bite Is Way Bigger Than His Bark

By William Dettloff

There was an even minute left in the first round when poor Joachim Alcine grabbed Alfredo Angulo's left arm and hung on the way a man caught in a sudden twister might cling to a stop sign or street light.

Angulo hacked away at him with the right like he's supposed to, landing anywhere he could—back, shoulder, the side of Alcine's head, his neck. Referee Lou Moret hung back, watching, sensing probably that Alcine wanted him to untangle the fighters, but Moret has been around a long time and knows the rules.

He let Angulo bang away—14, 15, 16 right hands altogether, looping and otherwise, before Alcine figured Moret wasn't going to save him and let go of Angulo and began winging hooks and right hands. It was too late.

"When he grabbed onto my left hand and I kept hitting him with the right, I knew he was hurt already," Angulo told THE RING a couple weeks after winning what the WBC called an eliminator to determine the top contender for Sergio Martinez, its junior middleweight beltholder.

We thought that honor had already fallen on Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. following his win over John Duddy, but you know how that goes.

Angulo, 19-1 (16), and with more concussions on his HBO highlight compilation than you'll see on a *Jackass* marathon, said through a translator that he doesn't consider himself a knockout puncher.

"I train to fight all the rounds, and, if the fight finishes before all the rounds, it's better for me," he said, one presumes with a straight face. "It's not on my mind to knock out the other fighter."

Fortunately for us, a knockout puncher is precisely what Angulo is. This makes him a valuable and relatively rare commodity these days, for there are precious few true kayo artists among us.

Manny Pacquiao is one. Yuriorkis Gamboa is another. Juan Manuel Lopez. Kelly Pavlik on a good day. Maybe Giovanni Segura if you can consider a man who weighs 108 pounds a puncher. Vic Darchinyan if he's got the right guy in front of him, and that goes for Miguel Cotto too.

The Brothers Klitschko sport gaudy knockout percentages, but their wins are achieved through a kind of overwhelming attrition. They pound and pound and pound until even an earnest man, and there are few of those above 200 pounds anymore, gives in. That's not the same as stretching a man with a single blow.

Randall Bailey, entirely useless once touched on the chin but still the deadliest one-punch fighter in the game, seems from another time.

And then there is "El Perro," who hit poor, brave, outclassed clubfighter Harry Joe Yorgey so hard on the chin that, at this writing, Yorgey has not fought since and probably would be wise to keep it that way. Angulo's power is the kind that rattles brains, makes decent fighters forget how to fight, and, not coincidentally, excites people. And not just the fans.

"I told everyone it would go less than five rounds and that was being very generous. I knew [Alcine] would make a mistake and he did," Mike Criscio, Angulo's manager, told THE RING. He was beaming, right through the phone.

Criscio also manages Angulo's polar opposite, the cerebral boxer-puncher Chad Dawson, whom THE RING rates the top light heavyweight in the world and who shares none of Angulo's affection for the legalized mayhem that is a slugfest. Talking to him, you get the sense Criscio wishes Dawson were more like Angulo. And why shouldn't he be? Dawson, despite his obvious acumen, couldn't sell out your linen closet. Angulo has no trouble putting asses in seats. Guys like him never do.

PHOTO BY CHRIS COZZONE/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Dog attack: Once Angulo trapped Alcine on the ropes, he kept pounding away until referee Lou Moret stopped the fight with one second to go in the first round of a bout optimistically scheduled for 12 rounds. It is these sorts of fireworks that have made "El Perro" a fan favorite.

It's the punchers people love. Muhammad Ali's personality and will and, yes, the times, attracted disciples more than any fighter before or since, but it's the puncher and what he might do that bring the crowds. Dempsey. Louis. Marciano. Tyson. Instant drama. Instant gratification. Angulo fits the bill.

"He's just a tough son of a bitch. He's probably, I hate to say it, but he's probably the toughest guy out there as far as strength and power. And he's fearless. He will not back down from anybody. You cannot back this guy down from anybody," Criscio said.

Many thought Alcine, 32-2 (19), would present Angulo with his sternest test outside of Kermit Cintron, who outpointed Angulo in May 2009. Alcine's only loss had been to Daniel Santos, and, even if his record contained few names recognizable to anyone outside Montreal, he seemed to have the tools needed to at least give Angulo a few rounds of aggravation.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG BENNETT/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Joel Julio, reportedly trained to a fine point for once, got some business done before Angulo gradually beat the fight out of him and stopped him in 11 rounds last April. Alcine, 153½ pounds and from Laval, Quebec, figured to do, if not as much, close to it.

He didn't, likely because at the opening bell he chose against a strategy involving movement and instead spread his legs wide and dug in, looking for a fistfight. You could almost hear Angulo, 153½, and from Mexicali, Mexico, and now living and training in California, laugh softly to himself.

Angulo engaged Alcine immediately and, before long, was scoring. His blows make a sound unlike any in the sport: like a bowling ball dropped in a pool of wet cement. His power seems to come from his calves, thick like Julio Cesar Chavez' were, but not nearly the oversized pistons that once made Naseem Hamed one of the best finishers in the game.

Most of all, Angulo is calm, almost serene, in the ring, even as bedlam surrounds him. When Richard Gutierrez wobbled him in a war in 2008, his expression never changed. His eyes remained black slits barely visible under a lower forehead that juts out so much like a cliff one would expect the slightest provocation to open up his eyebrows.

He appears at once both dispassionate and ferocious, which is just the way you want a killer to be. The psychologists in us think men are born that way. They're either cowards or knights. Angulo said his calm is borne of hard work.

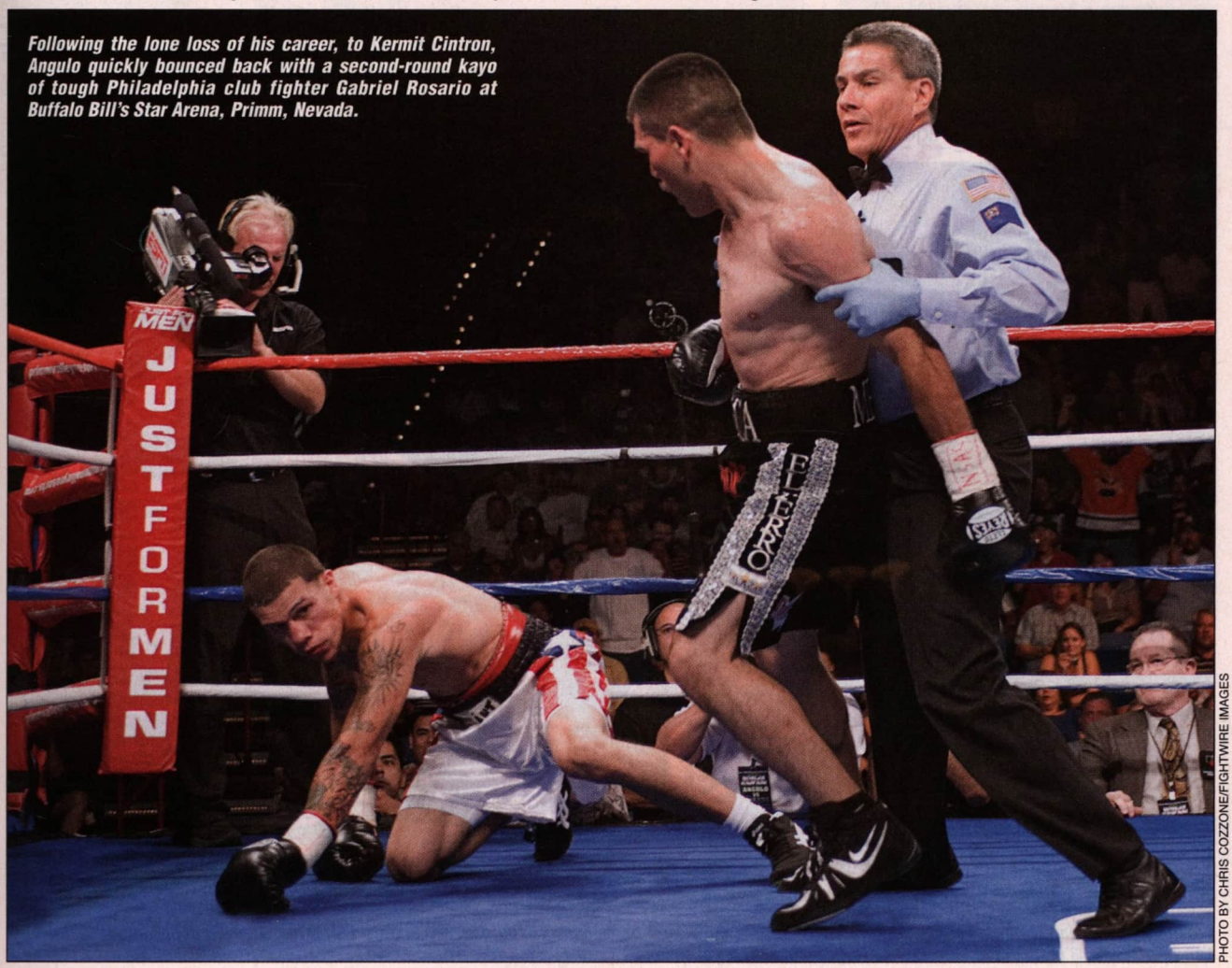
"I'm always confident in every fight because of the way I prepare. I'm always very calm. When I'm walking from the locker room to the ring, I don't think of anything. I just listen to the people cheering for me. That's how I stay calm and concentrated."

Angulo throws a lot of punches, and it's easy to be fooled into seeing the majority of them as power shots. Indeed, the combination that finished Alcine with a second left in the round and left him teetering, eyes bloodshot and unblinking, consisted of 13 cannon rounds, all hooks and right hands.

But Angulo jabbed a lot as well, and his jab is straight and hard and true, the way it should be. He is graceful like a donkey is graceful, but he is no lummox. He knows what he's doing.

"Perro needs a little to move the head. I don't think he has to become faster; he throws a lot of punches. He puts together a lot of punches. And he punches hard," Clemente Medina, Angulo's trainer, told THE RING.

Medina has been training fighters in California for 30 years, give or take. He hooked up with Angulo five years ago when the fighter found himself without a trainer right before a card on which bantamweight Abner Mares was fighting. Abner asked Medina, who was his trainer



Following the lone loss of his career, to Kermit Cintron, Angulo quickly bounced back with a second-round kayo of tough Philadelphia club fighter Gabriel Rosario at Buffalo Bill's Star Arena, Primm, Nevada.

PHOTO BY CHRIS COZZONE/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

at the time, to work Angulo's corner and the relationship stuck. Medina also works with prospects Ruben Rivera and Carlos Molina and knows everyone in the business in and around Los Angeles. And everyone knows him.

The trainer speaks in a thick Mexican accent and is polite the way a man is polite when he is brought up right and knows who he is. He has thick, short, black hair that is turning gray in small waves and he is stout, and, one suspects from speaking with him, jolly a lot of the time. He speaks almost lovingly of Angulo and yet, interestingly, refers to the fighter almost exclusively by his nickname.

"He's a top fighter. Perro's like a dog, he likes to attack," Medina said. "We work a lot on the mitts and the heavy bag and do many things for the power." When asked if Angulo works as hard in the gym as he appears to, he replies, "He is a gym rat. He's in the gym right now, training already. Perro, when he wins like that, he goes right to the gym to wait for another fight."

Clearly, the next fight should be big and not because the WBC says so. The rehabilitation of Angulo's image following the loss to Cintron, if even it was necessary, is complete and was well orchestrated: bloody, violent knockouts of Gabriel Rosado, Yorgey, Julio, and now Alcine, each one televised and each representing a small step up in class.

PHOTO BY CRAIG BENNETT/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Joel Julio fought well against Angulo in their April 2010 bout in Ontario, California, but was knocked out in the 11th round. Only four of Angulo's 20 pro opponents have been around to hear the final bell.

Criscio, like all fight managers, comes off perhaps braver than he is or perhaps should be with his fighter, but he and Angulo and Medina are at about the halfway stage of what looks like will be an eventful ride. You can't blame him for

PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

Previously undefeated Harry Yorgey desperately grabs Angulo's legs as he falls to the canvas. Shortly thereafter, referee John Callas counted out Yorgey at the 1:03 mark of the third round. Yorgey has not fought since.

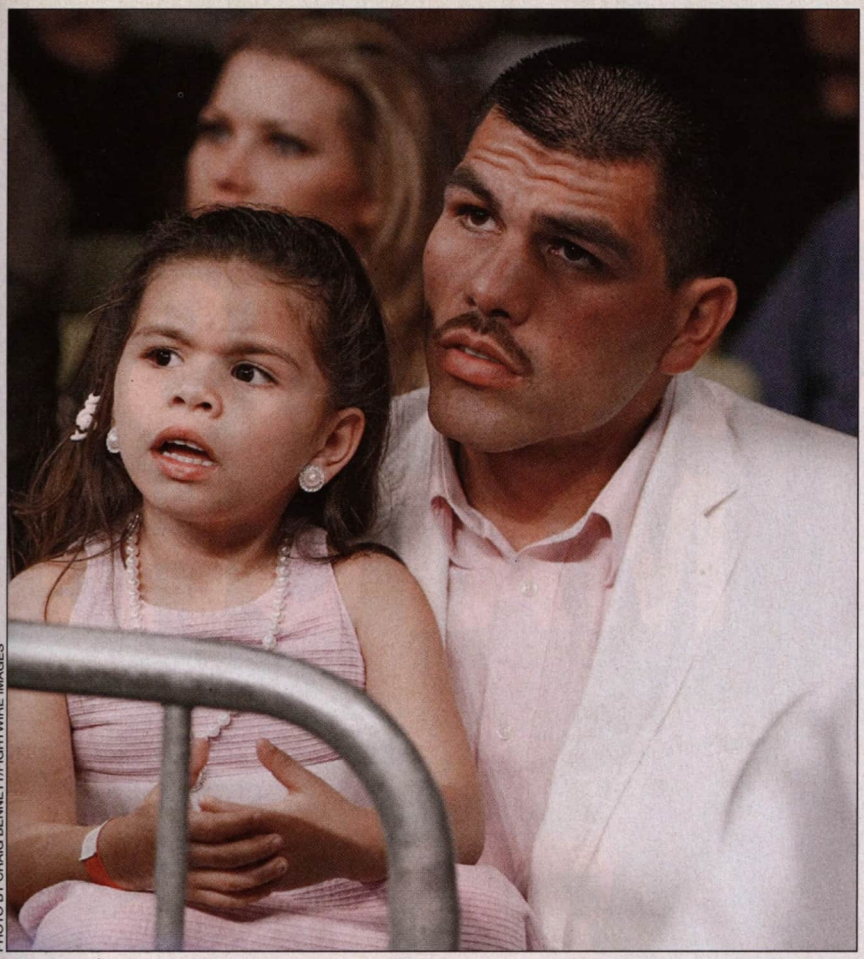


PHOTO BY CRAIG BENNETT/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

After dispatching Alcine so quickly, Angulo changed into his street clothes and joined his daughter, Rebeca, for the Tim Bradley-Carlos Abregu fight at the Agua Caliente Casino Resort in Rancho Mirage, California.

spouting. He's feeling it, and it's what he's paid to do.

"He'll stretch anybody he gets in there with. I'd love a fight with Cotto," Criscio said. "That would be a huge fight. And I think Alfredo knocks either [Paul] Williams or Martinez out. We'll fight anybody out there no matter who they are or where they're at in their career. Alfredo's probably the best boxer I have and the best boxer I will ever have. He's just a strong son of a bitch and he's fearless."

Criscio's bravado and Angulo's bludgeoning of Alcine notwithstanding, there is reason for caution. Whether or not he was ill or distracted in some manner or another the way fighters are sometimes, Angulo's loss to Cintron cinched the belief that the way to beat him is to out-maneuver him. While it's true that Cintron could have been seen as running for sweet survival in the last couple rounds or so, there is no question Angulo failed at cutting off Cintron's escape routes in the early rounds. And there are better, faster boxers at 154 than Cintron.

Yuri Foreman, despite his loss to Cotto, is a superb boxer-mover who in terms of mobility makes Cintron look like Lou Duva. The Ukraine's undefeated Sergei Dzinziruk is an excellent and underrated technical boxer and exceedingly well schooled. And, of course, Martinez is fast, flashy and highly mobile.

Don't suggest to Medina that any of these guys could outbox Angulo.

"Perro won't have a problem. He can go 12 rounds with anyone who moves like that, like a woman, and runs. He will catch them and knock them out."

Maybe that's true. It's enough to say that Angulo will make any prizefight exciting, so long as he can get his man to stand for a bit like Alcine did. That's Angulo's game: Make him stand still for a bit and try to win a punchout. He's increasingly good at it and, when he gets you, you go, and the crowd calls his name. My, it's good to be a puncher. ■

DON'T MISS WILLIAM DETTLOFF

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Always insightful and often provocative, William Dettloff, The Ring's senior writer, is the thinking-fans' columnist, a writer who never settles for the same old stale commentary you've already read a dozen times. For example, here's Dettloff's take on a handful of hot topics:

Dettloff on ringtv.com ... The perfect way to answer the week's opening bell!

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MISMATCH OR CAN'T-MISS MATCH?

A crushing right hook spelled the beginning of the end for Bernabe Concepcion in the second round of their July 10th showdown (below). The victory for "JuanMa" set up an interesting battle against Mexican star Rafael Marquez, already set for September 18 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

JuanMa Takes Aim At A "Name" Against Rafael Marquez

By Eric Raskin
PHOTOS BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

You fight, then you embrace. You fight again, then you embrace again. Another fight, another embrace. That pattern could describe the career of a boxer. It could also describe life for most married couples.

Eight days after he traded punches and then shared a postfight embrace with Bernabe Concepcion in a ring in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Juan Manuel Lopez stood in a church in the island nation he calls home, pledging to have and to hold—but, importantly, not to hold and to hit—Barbara DeJesus till death do them part. The couple met several years before, had two children together, and were married in a no-frills civil ceremony in August 2009. With Lopez having added a few six-figure paydays since then, they were finally able to afford the wedding and reception they wanted. More than 250 friends and family members were on hand as Lopez took the final step in deeming Barbara his life partner.

After the wedding, attention quickly shifted from Lopez' life partner to his next dance partner. The first 29 fights of the 2004 Olympian's pro career haven't lacked for much. He's won alphabet belts at two weights, scored spectacular one-punch knockouts, survived a grueling war, gotten off the canvas to win, and drawn crowds everywhere from his homeland to Madison Square Garden. There is, however, one glaring omission on his resume. Lopez hasn't yet participated in the time-honored tradition of adding to his record the name of an aging, Hall of Fame-bound star.

Enter Rafael Marquez. Fight number 30 for Lopez is his chance to grab the torch from one of his elders. On September 18, two months to the day after his exchange of rings in that Puerto Rican church, the 27-year-old Lopez will enter the ring at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas favored to defeat the 35-year-old Marquez. They will fight, and they will embrace afterward.

What remains to be determined is, in the midst of that postfight hug, who will be offering condolences and who will be offering congratulations.

Some view Lopez vs. Marquez as almost a mismatch in favor of "JuanMa." They see a young knockout artist on the way up taking on a fading veteran of numerous grueling battles, and they see a one-sided destruction. But others view it as a toss-up and the toughest test of Lopez' career. They see an undefeated but vulnerable potential star facing a proven warrior who is looking rejuvenated after some time off and has dispatched his last two opponents in three rounds apiece.

Marquez has already found the in-ring partner alongside whom he will go down in the history books. He just completed a legendary four-fight series with Israel Vazquez that produced two Fights of the Year, two Rounds of the Year, two victories apiece, and more action than Lopez could see on 100 wedding nights. But could the former bantamweight and junior featherweight champ from Mexico City have room in his life for a second perfect pugilistic partner? As long as you don't believe Lopez will overwhelm Marquez with ease, the two technicians with a tendency to slug appear made for each other.

PHOTO BY ALEXANDER TAMARGO/GETTY IMAGES

Barbara and Juan Manuel Lopez recently tied the knot.

"It's all going to really be determined on whether Marquez can in any way deal with the power of Lopez," said Showtime analyst Al Bernstein following the Lopez-Concepcion fight. "We know Marquez is going to land punches, because you do against Lopez, and Marquez is a brilliant technician. So if in fact he can hang in there with the power of Lopez, we could be heading to a classic."

That power of which Bernstein speaks should not be underestimated. Concepcion was a full-sized featherweight who had never been stopped, yet nearly every punch Lopez landed seemed to hurt him. Less than a minute into the fight, Concepcion connected with an orthodox left hook at the same time that Lopez landed his southpaw straight left, and the Puerto Rican's power sent Concepcion flying back into the ropes for what could arguably have been called a knockdown. About 15 seconds later, Lopez scored with another straight left directly on Concepcion's chin and followed with a right hook that put the Filipino down.

Concepcion rose at Puerto Rican referee Luis Pabon's count of six, only to walk into two more flush left hands from JuanMa. The underdog soon found himself in trouble along the ropes, where a crushing left hand made his legs swoon. Soon thereafter, a clash of heads rocked Concepcion and set him up for a huge left hand that sent him staggering backward into the corner. A one-round blastout appeared imminent—until, with 20 seconds to go in the round, Concepcion countered with a left hand high on the head that floored the local hero. It was one of the all-time rewind-live-TV moments of the TiVo era. Rush Limbaugh could start voting Democrat and it would be no more unexpected than the sight of Lopez going down at that particular moment.

Lopez wasn't hurt badly and he rose immediately, and the bell rang to conclude the Round of the Year candidate before Concepcion could follow up. And just like that, the Filipino's opportunity had passed.

Just 20 seconds into round two, a booming straight left put Concepcion down again. He rose in decent shape, but a left to the body soon did damage. Lopez stayed completely poised and contained, waiting for his opening to finish the job, and that opening arose after JuanMa sneaked in a right hook. He pounced with two more hooks and then a left cross that sent Concepcion, 28-4-1 (15), sprawling to the canvas. Concepcion got up but couldn't find his balance, prompting Pabon to wave off the fight at 2:37 of the second round.

"Sometimes you get a little overconfident," Lopez said of the knockdown he suffered late in the opening round. "I had the fight under control, but he's a great fighter, strong fighter, a good punch. I have to learn to never be overconfident."

That's a lesson that might serve Lopez well in his very next fight. There are some who view Marquez as little more than a

Lopez has Concepcion in considerable trouble early, backing him into the ropes and knocking him down in the first round. With each punch carrying a major impact, JuanMa looked as if he was going to finish Concepcion immediately.

big-name steppingstone on Lopez' path to an eventual dream fight against fellow rising star Yuriorkis Gamboa. But don't count Marquez' promoter, Gary Shaw, among them.

"JuanMa swings wide, and if he does what he did against Concepcion, he's going to go down and it could be for the count," Shaw said. "I really think we knock him out. JuanMa's very chinny. Marquez is very experienced. The moment Marquez sees an opening, the next thing you'll see is JuanMa down.

"Raffy's a sure first-round ballot Hall of Famer. JuanMa's not there yet. But I see this the same way I always saw the Marquez-Vazquez wars: I don't think either one can miss the other one. Both guys can go down. I think it's going to be a terrific fight. For fight fans and for TV, it's spectacular."

When Shaw and others reference Lopez' vulnerability, they aren't only talk-

After getting knocked down once, Concepcion couldn't withstand the last assault of Lopez, forcing a stoppage at 2:37 of the second round. It marked the first time Concepcion was ever stopped.

ing about the one punch that Concepcion landed. They're also thinking of JuanMa's October '09 fight against Rogers Mtagwa, a brutal battle in which Lopez was badly hurt throughout the last couple of rounds and had to rely on pure heart to survive. On the one hand, he deserved praise for the determination he showed. On the other hand, he was taking on a journeyman-type who wasn't supposed to pose any threat at all.

Lopez, at his best, is one of the most well-rounded boxer-punchers in the game today. His wins against Daniel Ponce De Leon, Gerry Penalosa, and Steven Luevano, all world-class fighters, were virtuoso performances. If he's experienced defensive lapses or moments of weakness against Mtagwa and Concepcion, those negatives are quite rightly outweighed by the upside he's shown.

Vazquez, the great rival of Marquez whose career appears to have reached its end following his bloody three-round TKO loss to Marquez in May, is a believer in the abilities of Lopez. He has as much respect for Marquez as anybody on the planet, but he's still picking Lopez to win.

"Juan Manuel Lopez is the younger fighter. He's strong. He has power in

Marquez (left) poses a variety of threats to Lopez, with experience and power that's enough to jolt Lopez. Added to that is Lopez' defensive lapses, like the one he suffered in the first round against Concepcion, getting careless and tasting the canvas after absorbing a right to the head that caught him off guard for a flash knockdown. He can't afford to make that mistake against the seasoned Marquez.

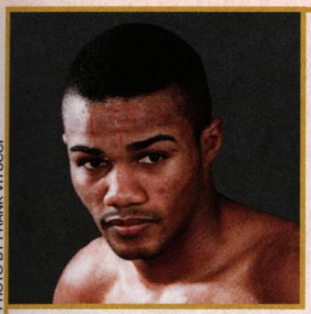


PHOTO BY FRANK VITUCCI

Felix Trinidad

THE THREE BORICUAS

Less than two weeks before he defeated Concepcion, Lopez celebrated his 27th birthday. Here's a career comparison of the modern Puerto Rican superstars, Felix Trinidad, Miguel Cotto, and Lopez, a couple of weeks after each turned 27:

PHOTO BY AL BELO/GETTY IMAGES

Miguel Cotto

	TRINIDAD	COTTO	LOPEZ
Record	36-0 (30)	31-0 (25)	29-0 (26)
Knockout Percentage	83%	81%	90%
Knockdowns Suffered	4	1	1
Titleholders Defeated	5	4	2
Biggest Name On Resume	Oscar De La Hoya	Shane Mosley	Gerry Penalosa

both hands, and I feel that his youth will overcome Marquez," Vazquez said. "I think it's going to be a good test for Lopez. I don't think he's fought guys the caliber of Marquez or with the experience of Marquez. I think they put him in with some good, strong opponents, but not as technically sound as Marquez. So I think this is going to be his biggest test. Whether he can take Marquez' punch, I don't know.

"They're both strong fighters and good punchers, so it could definitely be a candidate for Fight of the Year. Maybe not as good as my fights with Marquez, but still very good. And at the end of the day, it will probably be Lopez who wins."

If Lopez does indeed prevail, it will be the latest step in his following along the trail blazed by the two Puerto Rican boxing icons who most recently preceded him, Felix Trinidad and Miguel Cotto. Lopez is proving himself to be a legitimate successor to their legacies by showing vulnerability and a penchant for drama en route to victory. He can put opponents on the deck at any moment, but as we saw against Concepcion, he can also find himself looking upward from a single shot. Not all elite Puerto Rican fighters fit this mold—certainly, reigning junior fly champ Ivan Calderon doesn't—but the general tendency among Boricua belters is to be equal parts pound-for-pound-worthy and crowd-pleasing.

In fighting Marquez, Lopez is doing just as Trinidad and Cotto did before him: trying to elevate his star by bumping off a major name. For the unbeaten Trinidad, the opportunity came when he dominated a thirty-something Hector Camacho in 1994. For the unbeaten Cotto, it came when he edged a thirtysomething Shane Mosley in 2007. The closest Lopez has come is respected veteran ex-titlist Penalosa, but the Filipino hardly qualified as a star.

Marquez is the biggest name currently residing at featherweight. He is to Lopez as Camacho and Mosley were to Trinidad and Cotto.

And Marquez makes the fight perfect for Lopez in one more way: He's a Mexican. The Puerto Rican vs. Mexican rivalry has been quite possibly the greatest ongoing international feud in the sport of boxing over the last 30-plus years, from Wilfredo Gomez vs. Carlos Zarate in 1978 through to the present. In this particular case, the emotional element will be intensified by the fact that Lopez and Marquez are fighting on Mexican Independence Day weekend. And Las Vegas is more traditionally a Mexican fight town than a Puerto Rican one, meaning it'll feel like a road game for Lopez at the MGM Grand.

"It could affect JuanMa because he's used to coming out in Puerto Rico to the cheers of all the great Puerto Rican fight fans, and he's not going to have that in Las Vegas. All he'll have is the folks from Top Rank yelling for him, so that's 16 people," Shaw joked. "Everyone else will be in Rafael's corner. He'll have all the fans. We'll do easily 10,000-plus of real, sold tickets, not papered."

If indeed the fight draws that kind of crowd, and they're rooting fervently along nationalistic lines, it's hard to imagine either fighter blocking them out and waging a disciplined, clinical boxing match. Lopez vs. Marquez has all the makings of a fight where the considerable skills of each man get left in the dressing rooms and they trade bombs for as many rounds as the fight lasts.

Perhaps Marquez is too old and has been in too many wars to provide a stiff challenge for JuanMa; maybe Vazquez and his scar tissue made Marquez look like he had more left than he really does.

Then again, maybe Marquez is still close to his peak, and, using his veteran wiles, he can finish the job that Mtagwa and Concepcion couldn't.

After Marquez-Vazquez IV, all parties agreed there was no need for a fifth fight. But if Marquez turns out to be more than just a name for Lopez to add to his resume, then we might be looking at a technicians' brawl that fits in nicely alongside any in the Marquez-Vazquez series.

And if it even remotely resembles something out of that legendary rivalry, then Lopez vs. Marquez will be a fight we can all embrace. ■

CELEBRATING "THE FIGHT OF THE CENTURY" A CENTURY LATER

By Joseph Santoliquito

A piece of stage divided two families from their distant yesterdays where a century of misunderstanding once stood. Jack Johnson and Jim Jeffries never shook hands before *nor after* their historic fight on July 4, 1910 in Reno, Nevada, dubbed "The Fight Of The Century."

A gulf of ignorance that once separated long-lost relatives was within seconds bypassed. Linda E. Haywood, Johnson's great, great niece, and Gary Wurst, Jeffries' great, great nephew, finally put to rest what was left incomplete by their relatives when they met at the Grand Theatre at Reno's Grand Sierra Resort on July 2.

The two shook hands and then embraced. The poignant moment stirred an emotional cord in everyone there and highlighted a superlative weekend of events that celebrated the centennial anniversary of Johnson's victory over former undefeated heavyweight champion Jeffries.

If "Lil' Arthur" and his counterpart Jeffries had been brought back to life and shuttled through time to the event, they may have both shook their heads over how far society and race relations have come in 100 years.

What Jack and Jim would have found were African-Americans and whites sitting together in a ballroom, eating at the same tables, enjoying the company of each other while socializing over a landmark moment in sports—*and American*—history that spawned race riots during a time when blatant racism prevailed.

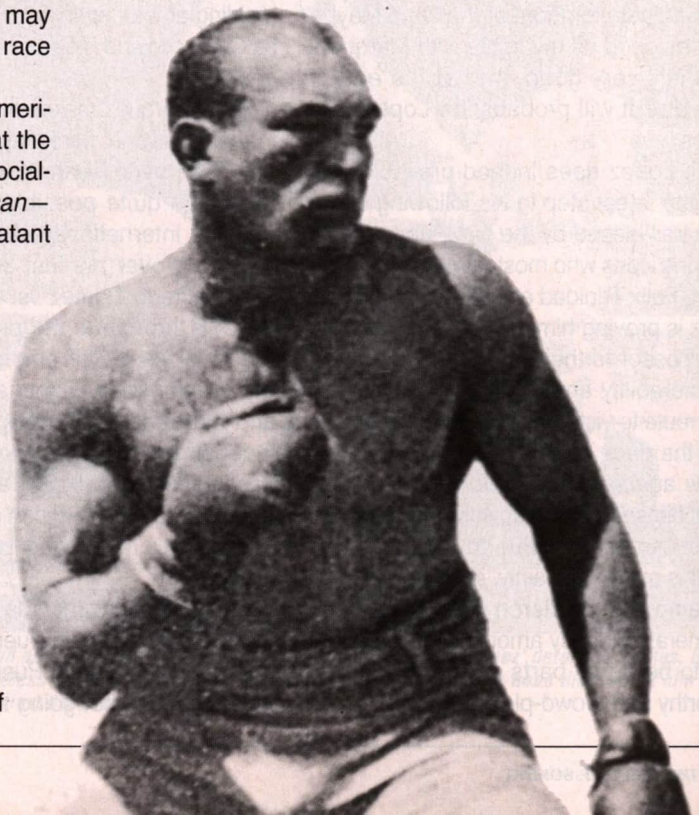
What the centennial celebration also broached was how much each family had in common with the other after 100 years. Neither Haywood nor Wurst knew much about their historic uncles before they arrived in Reno. Neither was aware of the magnitude their relatives had on a nation back then.

"I think if my Uncle Jack was here, he'd laugh and cry and be very pleased over this whole event," said Haywood, 54, the daughter of Dorothy Cross, Johnson's great niece who is the granddaughter of Janie Johnson, Jack's youngest sister and the only one of Johnson's siblings to bear children.

"It's funny, because for years and years my family didn't speak of him. They were so deeply hurt and ashamed of him being put in prison. I was 12 when I found out about him, back when I was in grade school during what we used to have as 'Black History Week.' I'd always see pictures of him up on the wall and the first black heavyweight champion. But I didn't know he was my uncle then. I never knew the overall impact he had on people's lives until this weekend."

It was three days of overdue healing from a fight that was more than just a fight. It made you feel the energy of a century ago and also made you wince over the egregious acts perpetrated at the time.

The hostility was so palpable Jeffries refused to shake Johnson's hand before the fight, and, when Johnson stopped the overmatched Jeffries in the 15th round, he waded through the crowded ring and was rebuffed from attempting to shake Jeffries' hand by former world champion Jim Corbett, who was working Jeffries' corner and through



Linda E. Haywood, the great, great niece of Jack Johnson, and Gary Wurst, the great, great nephew of Jim Jeffries (below), came together July 4th weekend with the original bell from the fight to commemorate the "Fight Of The Century" that took place between their distant relatives 100 years ago in Reno, Nevada (bottom).

PHOTO BY LAURA DE LA TORRE

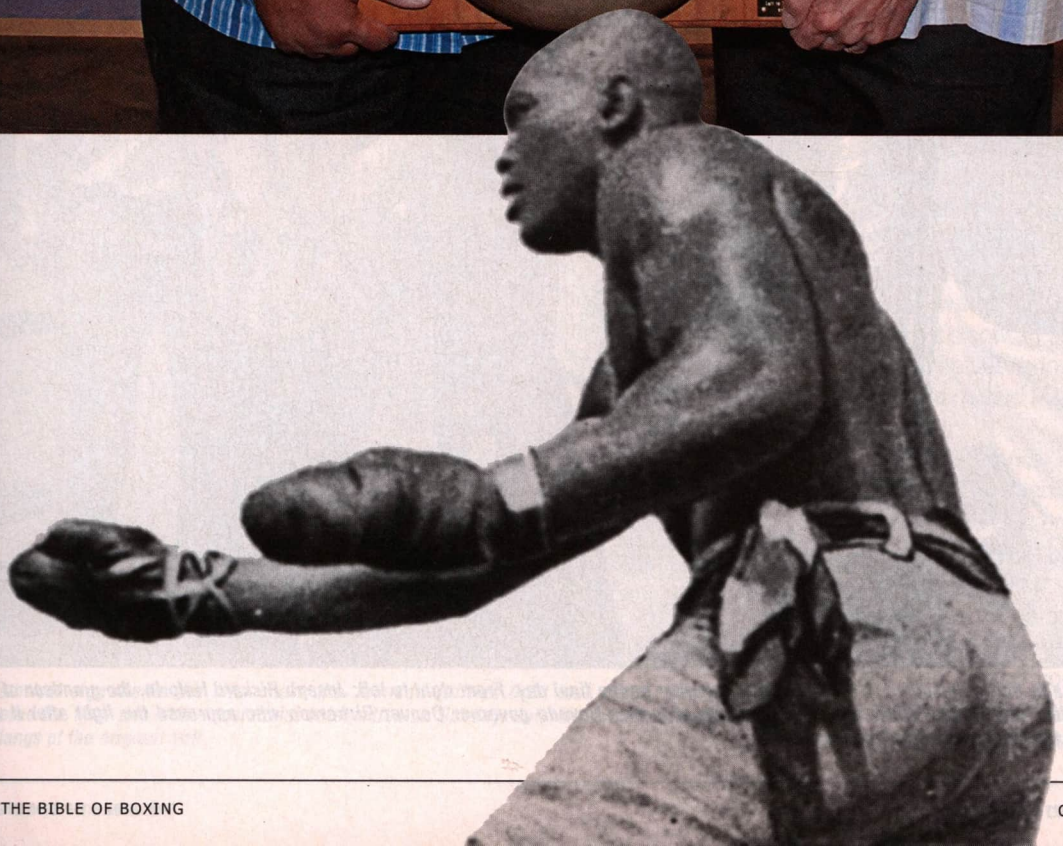


PHOTO BY LAURA DE LA TORRE

The most emotional moment of the centennial celebration occurred Friday night at the gala dinner when the families of Johnson and Jeffries were introduced to the audience. When Haywood and Wurst hugged, a twinge of emotion went through everyone there.

time proved to be no "Gentleman," as he was nicknamed.

If there was a star throughout the event, it was Haywood, the living embodiment of her Uncle Jack, not afraid to say what was on her mind. She spoke so eloquently you would swear she is a professional speaker and not a seamstress from Chicago.

She made her uncle's spirit tangible, and the many who attended the event seemed to cling to her as if they were seeing and talking to Jack himself.

Wurst, 73, was a little more understated. He is semiretired and living in Southern California. He's the great nephew of Alameda Jeffries, Jim Jeffries' sister. Like Haywood, he too knew little of his Uncle Jim's exploits.

"I heard a few family stories, but not really that much," recalled Wurst, who slightly resembles his famous pugilistic relative. "I recently came into tons of pictures of my uncle though through a

PHOTO BY GUY CLIFTON

The families from all major parties involved in the fight came together on the final day. From right to left: Joseph Rickard Halprin, the grandson of Tex Rickard, Wurst, Haywood, and Denver Dickerson, the grandson of former Nevada governor Denver Dickerson who approved the fight after it was stopped from originally taking place in San Francisco.

cousin, a lot of personal shots of him. I was like Linda. I had no idea there was so much enthusiasm over that particular fight. This whole event was terrific, and Linda and her family seem like extremely nice people."

Then Wurst stopped for a second, and a whimsical smile crept over his face ... "The only sad part, I guess, is that the fight didn't happen five years earlier when Jack and my uncle were both in great shape. My Uncle Jim didn't have to do what he did. He was almost forced into it. I never saw or met my Uncle Jim. That's my one regret. I have no idea how he'd react to this. But I will take something away from this. I think I'll take away a lot more pride."

Terry and Tommy Lane, the sons of former referee Mills Lane, did a masterful job in orchestrating the weekend's events, despite a myriad of obstacles in piecing it together.

Still, about 500 showed up for the gala dinner Friday night that kicked off the weekend, the Johnson and Jeffries families got to witness live fights for the first time Saturday night at Grand Sierra Resort Grand Theatre ballroom. What capped the festivities was the ringing of the bell used in the Johnson-Jeffries fight at the actual site of the fight Sunday afternoon.

PHOTO BY GUY CLIFTON

The actual site of the Johnson-Jeffries Reno showdown is now owned by a salvage company and is filled with metal parts and pipes. Reno historians reached deep into finding the fight site in 1979 where once a great wooden bowl stood by referring back to a lawsuit filed by the contractor of the makeshift stadium because of nonpayment.

Throughout the weekend, an eclectic group of boxing celebrities attended the various events, including WBA super middleweight titlist Andre Ward and noted boxing announcers Rich Marotta and Al Bernstein. Also present were the relatives of Tex Rickard, who promoted the Johnson-Jeffries fight, and Denver Dickerson, the former Nevada governor who approved the fight and later was superintendent of federal prisons in 1920.

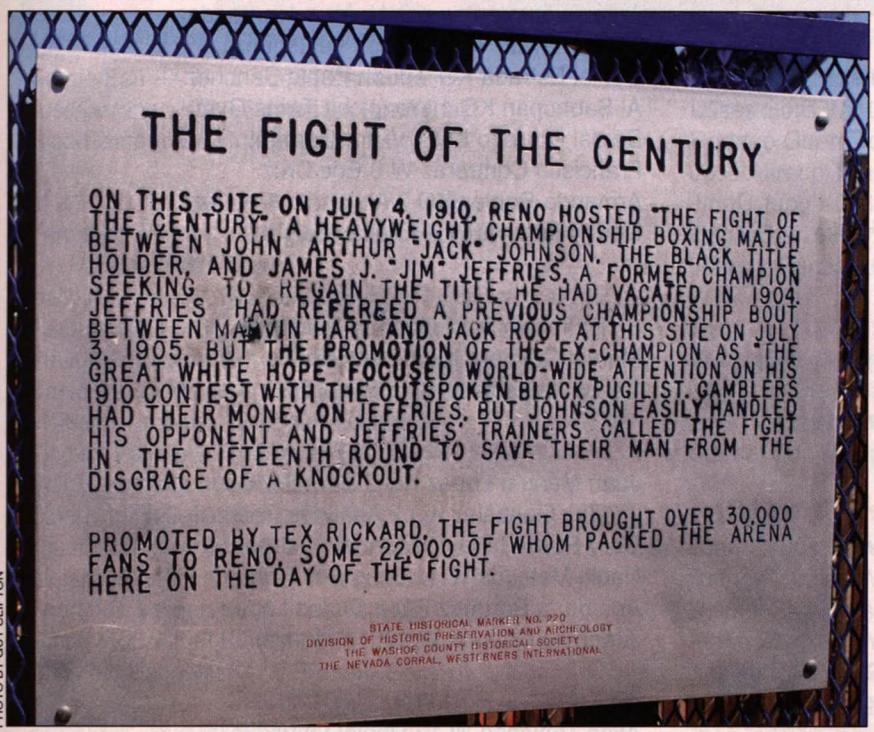


PHOTO BY GUY CLIFTON

A historical sign marks the site where the Johnson-Jeffries fight took place. Over 100 people gathered the final day of the centennial celebration on Sunday, July 4th, which was highlighted by 15 clangs of the original bell.

There were a few progressive thinkers during the early-1900s. Dickerson was one of them. He gave the order to prison guards that Johnson's cell was to be kept unlocked when he was sent to Leavenworth Penitentiary in Kansas for violating the Mann Act in 1920. Believing Johnson was wrongfully imprisoned because of his color, Dickerson allowed Johnson to fight exhibitions at both Leavenworth and the nearby Kansas State Penitentiary.

"My grandfather and Jack were friends their whole lives," said Denver Dickerson, the grandson. "My grandfather made sure Jack had free reign of the prison and was allowed to fight exhibitions. He didn't think that was any way for the world's heavyweight champion to be treated."

As the families arrived at the site of the fight on the final day, July 4, there were roughly 100 people already waiting in the sweltering heat. A cyclone fence now encircles where the makeshift wooden bowl was constructed for Johnson-Jeffries. It's now an expansive yard filled with rusty pipes, bridge extensions, and signposts owned by the Reno Salvage Company.

A metal historical sign marks the spot on the corner of Toano and Fourth Streets that was once the center of the universe, where dust-covered hoards gathered 100 years ago to watch something historic. If you looked hard enough through the plastic brown strips of the fence, stepped back and closed your eyes for a few seconds, you could almost see and hear the crowd's roar yourself. ■

[Summary]

Heavyweights
David Tua D 12 Monte Barrett
Chauncy Welliver W 12 Joell Godfrey
Shane Cameron W 10 Daniel Ammann
Gonzalo Basile W 10 Daniel Bispo
Joey Abell KO 4 Arron Lyons
Ran Nakash W 10 Victor Barragan
Viacheslav Hlazkov KO 3 Mark Brown
Walter Masseroni KO 1 Nestor Insaurralde
Deontay Wilder KO 1 Dustin Nichols
Zack Page W 8 Kevin McBride
Matt Skelton KO 5 Lee Swaby

Cruiserweights
Denis Lebedev KO 2 Alexander Alexeev
Danny Green KO 1 Paul Briggs
Steve Herelius KO 11 Fïrat Arslan

Light Heavyweights
Beibut Shumenov W 12 Viacheslav Uzelkov
(Retains WBA Title)
Joey Gilbert W 8 Billy Bailey
Gayrat Ahmedov KO 1 Dallas Vargas

Super Middleweights
Derrick Findley KO 4 Zane Marks
Fernando Gonzalez W 10 Emiliano Gomez
Shawn Estrada KO 1 Eddie Hunter

Middleweights
Fernando Guerrero W 10 Ishe Smith
Andrei Salahutdzinau W 10 Aliaksei Kanovka
Craig McEwan W 10 Danny Perez
Billi Godoy KO 1 Fernando Pereyra

Junior Middleweights
Alfredo Angulo KO 1 Joachim Alcine
Anthony Mundine W 12 Carlos Adan Jerez
Deandre Latimore KO 3 Darien Ford
Shawn Porter W 10 Ray Robinson
Saul Alvarez KO 6 Luciano Cuello
Michael Medina KO 4 Gilberto Hernandez
Jimmy Lange KO 2 Jimmy LeBlanc
Erislandy Lara KO 1 William Correa

Welterweights
Timothy Bradley W 12 Luis Carlos Abregu
Matthew Hatton W 12 Yuriy Nuzhnenko
Demetrius Hopkins W 10 Mike Arnaoutis
Mark Melligen W 10 Anges Adjaho
Lanardo Tyner KO 9 Antwone Smith
Mike Jones KO 5 Irving Garcia
DeMarcus Corley KO 4 Damian Fuller
Joseph Elegele KO 3 William Walton
Eduardo Flores KO 2 Idiozan Matos
Daniel Sandoval KO 2 Ramon Alvarez
Melvin Betancourt KO 1 Alex Hernandez
Ray Serrano W 8 Ayi Bruce

Junior Welterweights
Zab Judah KO 3 Jose Santa Cruz
Aldo Rios W 10 Saul Carreon
Fernanda Alegre W 10 Roxana Laborde
Nigel Wright W 10 Dean Harrison
Lenny Daws KO 10 Steve Williams
Pablo Lugo KO 9 Noe Morales
Felix Diaz KO 8 Broderick Antoine
Mike Dallas W 8 Lanard Lane
Antonio Lozada Jr. KO 4 Hugo Hernandez

Lightweights
Antonio DeMarco KO 2 Daniel Attah
John Molina KO 11 Hank Lundy
Eudy Bernardo W 12 Jose Antonio Rodriguez
Antonio Cervantes KO 10 Alain Hernandez
Ramon Ayala W 10 Carlos Velasquez
Daniel Estrada KO 9 Juan Pablo Sanchez
Al Sabaupan KO 1 Wonpichit Twins Gym
Daniel Dorrego KO 1 Victor Coronel
Francisco Contreras W 8 Eric Cruz
Armando Robles KO 3 Alejandro Mendez
Derry Mathews W 4 Kristian Laight

Junior Lightweights
Sipho Taliwe D 12 Godfrey Nzimande
Marvin Quintero KO 5 Jean Sotelo
Carlos Velasquez KO 5 Eduardo Arcos

Featherweights
Juan Manuel Lopez KO 2 Bernabe Concepcion
Jhonny Gonzalez KO 2 Aristides Perez
Gary Russell KO 1 Mauricio Pastrana
Naoki Matsuda W 12 Jung-Suk Soh
Adalberto Borquez KO 2 Carlos Lopez
Jeannine Garside W 10 Ina Menzer

Junior Featherweights
Allan Tuniacao W 12 Daniel Iannazzo
Giovanni Caro W 12 Breilor Teran
Tomoki Kameda W 10 Arturo Camargo

PHOTO BY CRAIG BENNETT/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Lightweight Francisco Contreras slams into the jaw of Eric Cruz en route to an 8-round decision victory

Sergio Estrela W 10 Lucas Carranza
Jose Beranza KO 9 Sebastian Rodriguez
Rico Ramos W 8 Cuauhtemoc Vargas

Bantamweights

Fernando Montiel KO 3 Rafael Concepcion
(Retains WBC Title)
Daiki Kameda W 10 Rosendo Vega
AJ Banal KO 5 Big Yoo
Paulus Ambunda W 12 Klaas Mboyane
David De La Mora W 12 Elvis Garcia
Malcolm Tunacao W 12 Kohei Oba
Vincent Palicte W 10 Renan Branzuela
Roli Gasca W 10 Jason Egera
Stuart Hall KO 10 Martin Power
Jonathan Oquendo KO 9 Eden Sonsona
Alejandro Hernandez KO 7 Jesus Ceja
Fernando Vargas KO 6 Jose Tamayo
Jamie McDonnell KO 3 Rodrigo Bracco
Christian Esquivel KO 2 Rodolfo Garay

Junior Bantamweights

Koki Kameda KO 4 Cecilio Santos
Nonito Donaire KO 8 Hernan Marquez
Hugo Cazares KO 7 Everardo Morales
Ulises Solis W 10 Eric Ortiz
Rodrigo Guerrero W 12 Federico Catubay
Jose Alfredo Tirado W 12 Enrique Quevedo
Jin-Ki Jung KO 8 Ki-Suk Bae
Oscar Ibarra KO 6 Carlos Melo
Johnny Garcia KO 5 Henry Maldonado

Flyweights

Pongsaklek Wonjongkam KO 1 Rey Megrino
(Non-Title Fight)
Brian Viloria W 10 Omar Soto
Suanoi Sor Tanapinyo KO 1 Sammy Hagler

Junior Flyweights

Juan Carlos Reveco KO 5 Armando Torres
Ramon Hirales W 12 Johnriel Casimero
Noknoi Sitthiprasert W 10 Donnie Mabao
Xiong Zhao Zhong W 10 Yasuaki Sato
Kazuto Ioka KO 9 Albert Alcoy

Strawweights

Pigmy Kokietgym W 12 Jack Amisa
Osvaldo Razon KO 6 Danny Olivo

Timothy Bradley W 12 Luis Carlos Abregu

Rancho Mirage, California: After a scheduled clash with junior welterweight contender Marcos Maidana fell through, Bradley opted to test the waters at 147 pounds in hopes of building his case for a date with welterweight stars Manny Pacquiao or Floyd Mayweather. The one-sided-yet-demanding decision Bradley captured against the tough Abregu might not have been the explosive performance he'd sought, but it did make "Desert Storm" seem vulnerable enough to embolden several notable rivals.

In the days following the bout, fellow 140-pound beltholders Amir Khan and Devon Alexander called out Bradley, while Andre Berto promoter Lou DiBella was reportedly looking into a fight between Bradley and the welterweight titlist. So even if he doesn't hook the big fish, Bradley should have several intriguing options for his next catch.

Abregu, 29-1 (23), proved to be a more intriguing match-up that many had predicted heading into their non-title fight at Agua Caliente Casino. His power, 4" height advantage, and 3" reach superiority proved troublesome to Bradley, 26-0 (11). Abregu, 146½, Salta, Argentina, was also surprisingly slick defensively at times, and he remained determined throughout, though his corner constantly implored him to throw more punches.

Bradley, 147, Palm Springs, California, was quicker and slicker, however, as he did enough to win almost every round. He wobbled Abregu on a few occasions but simply lacked the power at welterweight to inflict heavy damage.

Bradley, 26, nearly dropped Abregu, 27, with a right hand in an opening round. Abregu staggered back into the ropes, but he quickly regained his footing and survived the onslaught of Bradley, who wisely backed off. The WBO 140-pound beltholder suffered a slight cut above the right eye due to an accidental headbutt in the round.

After Bradley won the first three rounds mostly on hand speed, Abregu appeared to take the fourth with a higher work rate and a counter right midway through that had Bradley temporarily holding on. Bradley did succeed in opening up a small cut above the Argentine's right eye in the round. Desert Storm reasserted himself in the fifth with his faster, more accurate jab, bodywork, and counter left hook.

Abregu went down midway through the seventh from a hard clash of heads, which came as Bradley landed a right to the body. Referee Jack Reiss (California) correctly ruled that the head butt had caused Abregu to hit the deck. Sensing an opening, Bradley jumped on Abregu after the action resumed. His hooks bounced off the head of Abregu, who

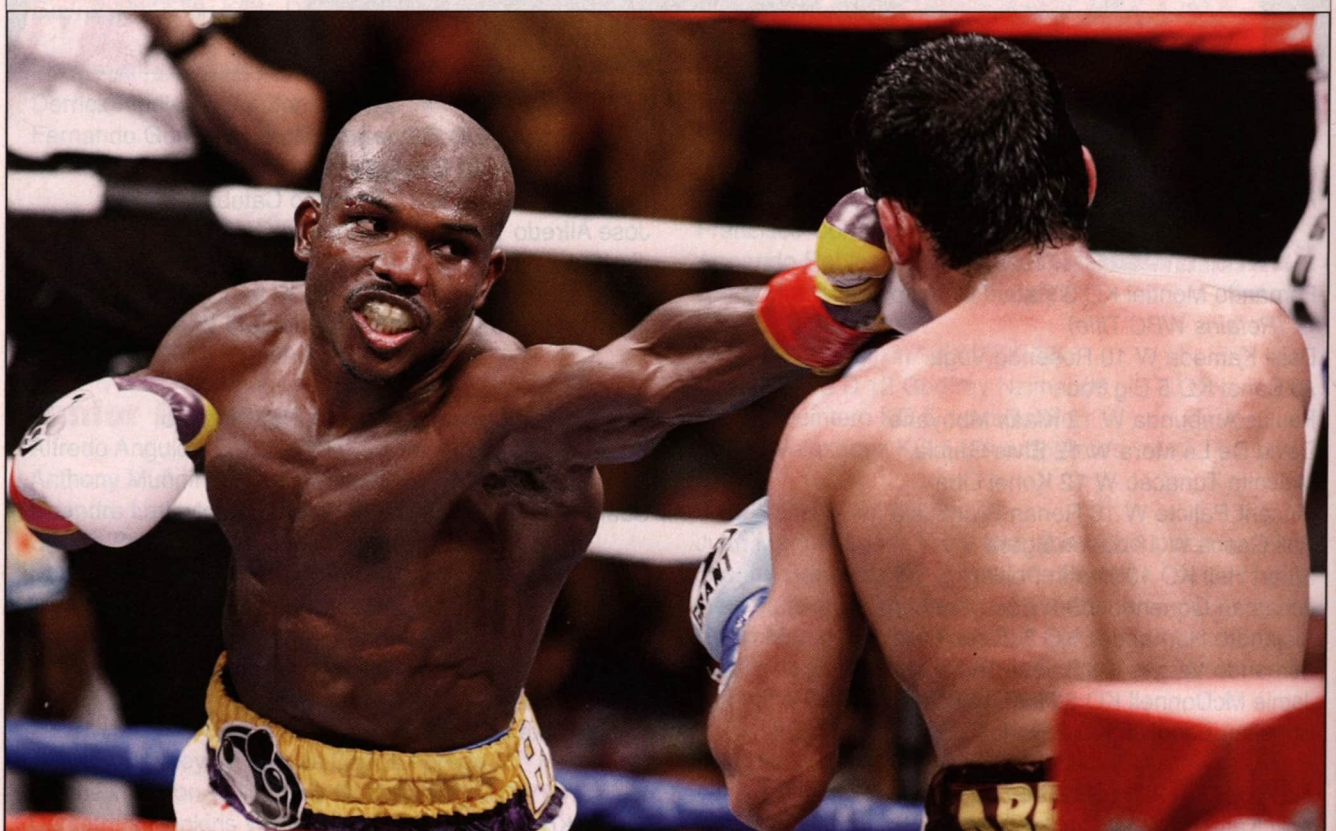


PHOTO BY CRAIG BENNETT/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Bradley jabs Abregu during successful 147-pound debut

again recovered quickly and had no problems making it to the bell. He landed his best shot of the night in the eighth, a clean right hook that momentarily stopped Bradley in his tracks.

With his corner telling him he needed to score a knockdown to narrow the deficit on the cards, Abregu attempted to pick up the pace in the final four rounds. That allowed Bradley to punish him with counters. Bradley looked content to cruise to the final bell in the first half of the 12th but then engaged in some frenetic exchanges in the final 90 seconds.

Fritz Werner (California) scored it 118-110, Barry Druxman (Washington) had it 117-111, and Jason Davis (California) saw it 116-112, all for Bradley. THE RING agreed with Druxman's tally. According to CompuBox, Bradley landed 159 of 531 shots (30 percent), compared to 93 of 583 (16 percent) for Abregu.

Afterward, THE RING's top-ranked junior welterweight admitted he felt the power of Abregu, though he claimed Kendall Holt hit him harder in last year's unification bout. Bradley then called out Pacquiao, although he also said he was ready to fight any of the other top names at 140 pounds. If nothing else, Abregu proved that Bradley might be best suited at that weight.

Television: **Showtime**
Promoter: **Gary Shaw Productions**
(7-17-10)

Fernando Montiel KO 3
Rafael Concepcion

Tuxtla Gutierrez, Mexico: It was a rough month for fighters named Concepcion. First, "JuanMa" Lopez blew out Bernabe Concepcion in two rounds, and then Rafael Concepcion (no relation) was bombed out in three rounds by Montiel.

Making the first defense of his unified WBO and WBC bantamweight belts, THE RING's top-rated bantamweight had no trouble at all with Concepcion, 118, Panama City, Panama, dropping him twice in the second round and once more in the third before referee Robert Byrd (USA) stopped the violence at the 1:07 mark of the third stanza.

Montiel, 118, Los Mochis, Mexico, has remained undefeated in 11 bouts since losing a split decision to the rather ordinary Jhonny Gonzales. It's hard to believe Montiel, 43-2-2 (33), has ever lost to anybody for the 31-year old has to be considered one of boxing's finest practitioners. As for Concepcion, he drops to 14-5-1 (8) and has lost two of his last three bouts. More was expected of the 28-year-old Concepcion, a last-minute replacement for an injured Eric Morel, for he gave Nonito Donaire a tough tussle last summer. However, he fought Donaire with a weight advantage that seemed to play in his favor and allowed him to withstand Donaire's best shots. Against Montiel, he was little more than a helpless punching bag.

[THE RING Fighter of the Month]

Juan Manuel Lopez

He's been prepackaged, marketed, and sold to boxing consumers as the next Puerto Rican star, the successor to Miguel Cotto and Felix Trinidad. Juan Manuel Lopez certainly has the potential and charisma to live up to that billing, and, with more performances like his two-round July thriller with Bernabe Concepcion, more fans will be buying in.

"JuanMa" already had a more lucrative September bout with Rafael Marquez scheduled, and he was under pressure to deliver in front of a packed house in San Juan, Puerto Rico, that included Trinidad. The southpaw electrified the crowd with a quick knockdown in the first and had Concepcion on the verge of being stopped when the Filipino connected with a desperation shot just before the bell that floored Lopez for the second time in his career (the other occurred in his fifth fight). Lopez cleared his head between rounds, remained on the attack in the second, and put Concepcion down two more times to finish it.

The performance was reminiscent of early Trinidad and Cotto bouts in which the two stars got off the canvas to stop opponents and further endear themselves to their fans. Safe to say Lopez strengthened his base by doing the same against Concepcion.

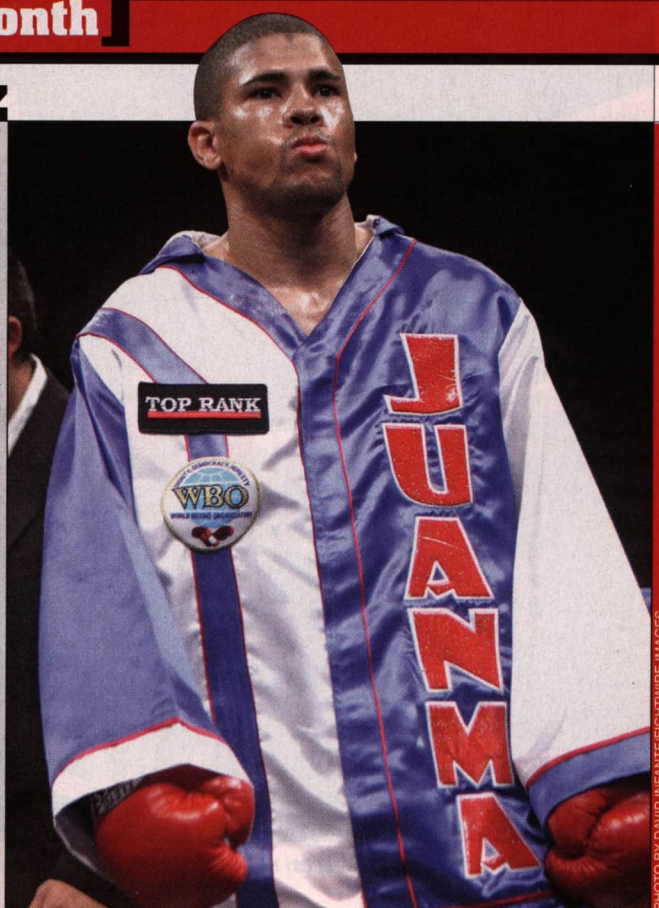


PHOTO BY DAVID INFANTE/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

It was a massive left hook that floored Concepcion early in the second. When he found his feet, Montiel dropped him again with the same punch. To make Concepcion's evening even more difficult, when he tried to survive Montiel's onslaught by hanging onto him, he was penalized a point for holding. Not that it mattered in the long run, because this one definitely wasn't going to the scorecards. Montiel switched his stance in the third and caught Concepcion with a right hook that knocked the Panamanian flat.

There has been some loose talk that Donaire and Montiel will meet sometime in the future, perhaps as early as this fall or early winter. You can't really tell how that will play out by comparing how they did against their common opponent Concepcion. Donaire is a lot better than he looked against "El Torito," and Montiel probably isn't as great as he looked against him at the Palenque de la Feria, although Montiel is punching as hard as ever.

Television: **Fox Sports Net/Fox Sports en Español**
Promoter: **Top Rank**
(7-17-10)

Zab Judah KO 3 Jose Armando Santa Cruz

Newark, New Jersey: Judah has returned to 140 pounds, added trainer Eddie Mustafa Muhammad to his camp, and pulled the diamond caps from his teeth, all while attempting to distance himself from his bad-boy image. While a more mature "Super" might be trying to pass himself off as kinder and gentler away from the ring, Santa Cruz received no mercy as a re-branded Judah made his debut at the Prudential Center.

It was evident from the opening seconds that southpaw Judah, 141, Brooklyn, New York, had been matched against the perfect opponent in Santa Cruz, 143, Lincoln Heights, California, via Michoacán de Ocampo, Mexico. Santa Cruz, 28-5 (17), had some credibility, however. He outpointed former lightweight contender Edner Cherry in 2006, was robbed of a decision in a 2007 challenge of then-lightweight champion Joel Casamayor, once held an interim title belt at 135 pounds, and had won two straight before facing Judah, 39-6 (27).

The 5'10" Santa Cruz held the height advantage over the 5'7½" Judah, who also gave away two inches in reach. Santa Cruz seemed to have no idea how to use it to counter Judah's glaring advantages in hand speed and lateral movement. Judah opened with a steady stream of jabs to the face that backed up Santa Cruz. The former welterweight champ and 140-pound beltholder kept the jabs coming, moving back to the outside before Santa Cruz' slow

PHOTO BY EMILY HARNEY/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Judah hammers Santa Cruz on the ropes

counters could reach him. Santa Cruz looked frozen and was left lunging forward at his elusive opponent.

The theme persisted in the second round, as Judah continued having little trouble keeping his right foot to the outside of Santa Cruz' lead foot. Santa Cruz showed no lateral movement, opting instead to keep his guard high, making him a repeated target for Judah's straight left to the body. With 48 seconds to go in the round, Judah sneaked a left through the guard that popped Santa Cruz' head back.

Santa Cruz, 29, began showing a bit more fire in the third, when he nearly trapped Judah against the ropes on a few occasions. After failing to pin Judah against the ropes late in the round, Santa Cruz came off the ropes and ate a perfectly timed counter left uppercut to the jaw 43 seconds before the bell. Santa Cruz collapsed to his seat, his right leg curling under him. He beat the count, but Judah immediately drove him into the ropes and began unloading hooks, including a wicked left upstairs that had Santa Cruz out on his feet. Referee Benjy Esteves (New York) jumped in, stopping it at the 2:33 mark.

"That was great," Judah told ESPN's Joe Tessitore afterward, referring to the left uppercut. "I'm punching at god's speed right now. That's my favorite punch right there. It'll put any boxer to sleep."

It was an impressive performance for the 32-year-old Judah, who hadn't fought at 140 pounds since December 2003. It's no coincidence that he should come back now, at a time when the division is one of the hottest in the sport, with Devon Alexander, Timothy Bradley, Amir Khan, Marcos Maidana, and Victor Ortiz among the host of potential opponents for Judah. "We're shooting for the big boys," he said.

Television: **ESPN2**

Promoters: **Main Events, Super Judah Promotions**

(7-16-10)

PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

Marquez (right) made Donaire fight hard for his victory

Nonito Donaire KO 8 Hernan Marquez

San Juan, Puerto Rico: After spending the first four rounds fighting as a southpaw, Donaire reverted back to an orthodox stance and showed why he is one of THE RING's top pound-for-pound fighters as he dominated Marquez until the bout was stopped at 2:59 of the eighth. The bout took place at the Coliseo de Puerto Rico José Miguel Agrelot in Hato Rey, Puerto Rico, as a co-feature before the explosive Juan Manuel Lopez-Bernabe Concepcion clash. It wasn't quite as electric, but it served as a nice table setter.

Donaire, 114½, San Leandro, California, by way of the Philippines, was making the final defense of the WBA "interim" junior bantamweight belt and had trained to fight Marquez from a left-handed stance. He'd been known to switch from righty to lefty in the past, but never for more than part of a round. Against Marquez, 21, he was determined to fight the entire battle as a southpaw. The results were mixed. Donaire was certainly competent and probably would've gone on to win the bout on points, but, as a lefty, he bore little resemblance to "The Filipino Flash" who has defeated so many top flyweights. As a southpaw, Donaire sort of crept forward in a half crouch, trying to launch his left or catch Marquez coming in. Donaire has great faith in the power of his left, but, from a left-handed stance, he didn't have the speed or accuracy as when he's fighting as a right-hander. He also suffered some serious defensive lapses, for Marquez, 115, Sonora, Mexico, was able to get inside and score with clubbing shots.

"I took some beating, but I think I needed that," said the 27-year-old Donaire, 24-1 (16), who sported bruises around both eyes at the end of the bout. "This was a learning experience for me."

Claiming he wants to follow in the tradition of Hall of Fame southpaws such as "Marvelous" Marvin Hagler and "Sweet Pea" Whitaker, Donaire said he would continue experimenting with his left-handed stance. It's an odd goal, because he is a supremely gifted fighter who has had great success fighting from the right-handed side. Feeling he has

outgrown the 115-pound limit, Donaire is also looking ahead to fighting bantamweights.

Moments after changing his stance in the fifth, Donaire had Marquez on the canvas, courtesy of a short left hook. Marquez spent the rest of the round clutching at Donaire, desperate to hang on until the bell. Feeling more like his old self, Donaire took target practice during the sixth and seventh, tagging Marquez with looping left hooks and uppercuts. Marquez kept grinding forward, though, making Donaire work for the win. Late in the eighth, Donaire landed a lightning left uppercut that put Marquez down again. When Marquez, 27-2 (20), struggled unsteadily to his feet, trainer Rudy Perez got the attention of referee Roberto Ramirez (Puerto Rico) and asked that the bout be stopped.

Television: **Showtime**

Promoters: **Top Rank, PR Best Boxing Promotions**

(7-10-10)

Fernando Guerrero W 10 Ishe Smith

South Haven, Mississippi: Guerrero, 19-0 (15), Salisbury, Maryland, was pushed to the brink and even found himself on the canvas but came away with a 10-round unanimous decision win over Smith, 24-2 (9), Las Vegas, Nevada. The bout was the main event of a *ShoBox* tripleheader, and it was supposed to serve as a showcase for Guerrero. In a way, though, Smith nearly stole the show.

No one booed the decision, but it had turned into one of those fights where the veteran kept pressing the action, giving the young buck more trouble than anyone would've imagined. As Smith poured it on during the ninth round, winging right hands to the head and hooks to the body, it looked like Guerrero was being schooled by a cranky veteran with nothing to lose. Trainer Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, perhaps sensing an upset, told Smith prior to the 10th and final round, "Let's go to work."

Smith (right) looked unlucky not to get at least a draw with Guerrero

PHOTO BY SCOTT FOSTER/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

But 31-year-old Smith had been working all night. He came out energized for the 10th and went toe-to-toe with Guerrero, flailing tiredly but giving no quarter, even when Guerrero tagged him with a straight right to the chin that momentarily froze him. At the final bell, Smith seemed to be satisfied that he'd accomplished exactly what he had set out to do. Many observers felt Smith had done enough in the late rounds to pull the fight out or perhaps earn a draw. Therefore, it was disappointing when all three Mississippi judges, Gerald Deming, Reccia Mullins, and Louis Henry, scored the bout for Guerrero by scores of 96-93, 95-93, and 97-91, respectively. THE RING scored it 95-95.

The first round was a feeling-out round that was jeered by the fans at the DeSoto Civic Center, although both fighters started trading good bodyshots during round two. Southpaw Guerrero, 159, started applying more pressure in round three, which seemed to frustrate Smith, who was warned twice for low blows by referee Randy Phillips (Mississippi). Guerrero simply outworked Smith in the fourth and fifth, piling up points with his steady jab and some nice hooks. Smith, 158, who'd been 4-0 in his previous *ShoBox* appearances, didn't seem intimidated by Guerrero, but he couldn't compete with the youngster's speed and enthusiasm.

Smith started battling back with more bodyblows in the sixth but had a point taken for a beltline shot that Phillips ruled a low blow. Undeterred, Smith had a very good seventh, making Guerrero cover up late in the round. Both fighters landed flush shots in the eighth, but it was Smith who kept coming forward. Just before the bell, he landed a right hand that dropped Guerrero for a flash knockdown. Guerrero survived, and finished the bout on his feet.

"I train hard so the zero in the loss column never goes away," the 23-year-old Guerrero said. Meanwhile, Smith seems to train hard enough to keep losing close bouts.

Television: **Showtime**
Promoters: **DiBella Entertainment, Prize Fight Promotions LLC**
(7-16-10)

Brian Viloria W 10 Omar Soto

Manila, Philippines: In his first bout since losing the IBF flyweight belt to Carlos Tamara by TKO last January, Viloria had a lot on his mind. First, he had to overcome the memory of collapsing in his locker room and being rushed to the hospital, which happened six months before. If shaking off that scary memory weren't enough, this bout was also Viloria's first with new trainer Ruben Gomez, who took over when Robert Garcia left Viloria's camp recently over a dispute with Viloria's manager, Gary Gittelsohn. On top of that distraction, Viloria had a scrappy opponent in "Lobito" Soto. While some in attendance at Yñares Sports Arena were disappointed that Viloria could only muster a split decision over a journeyman with a history of knockout losses, Viloria might remember the hard-fought win over Soto as an important milestone in his career.

"I thought this was a good first step in getting myself back into championship form," Viloria told the postfight press gathering. "It wasn't pretty, but I got the job done this time. I didn't want to make it too dramatic." Viloria added, "I put my boxing skills to work and I just wanted to come out there safe, shake a little bit of cobwebs out, and I think I did that tonight."

"The Hawaiian Punch" was indeed dazzling during the first four rounds, giving the fans at Pasig City's Yñares Center reason to believe he was going to score a knockout. By the mid-rounds, though, Soto was hurting Viloria with strong punches to the body and head. Viloria, who has had stamina problems in the past, tired badly in rounds eight and nine. Perhaps sensing the fight was close, Viloria summoned up a big finish, bringing the crowd to its feet as he and Soto put on a furious exchange early in the 10th. Viloria looked weary, but managed to leg out the remainder of the final round as Soto pursued him. Many of the rounds were difficult to score, as shown by the confusing tallies at ringside. Two of the three Filipino judges, Ricardo Canlas and Edwin Sese, scored the bout 97-93 for Viloria, while judge Epi Almeda saw the bout for Soto, 97-93.

Viloria, 112, Waipahu, Hawaii, improves his record to 27-3 (15), while Soto, 111½, Mexico City, Mexico, falls to 19-7-2 (13). Viloria, THE RING's seventh-ranked junior flyweight, claimed he would be staying at flyweight, for it's believed by Viloria's camp that the effort to make 108 was what caused his collapse last January. He's been at junior flyweight for his past four fights, but prior to that, he was all over the scale, weighing anywhere from 108 to 115.

"Now I'm going to go back straight to the gym, work even harder for my next fight and learn some of the things I need to work on and just see where this goes," said Viloria, 29.

In attendance were Sarangani Province Representative Emmanuel Depidran Pacquiao and his wife, Jinkee. The referee was Ferdinand Estrella (Philippines).

Promoter: **Solar Sports**
(7-10-10)

Saul Alvarez KO 6 Luciano Cuello

Guadalajara, Mexico: Hot off his winning appearance on the Floyd Mayweather-Shane Mosley pay-per-view undercard, Alvarez continued his undefeated streak with a brutal sixth round TKO of Cuello. The fight was part of an 11-bout boxing program put on by Golden Boy Promotions, giving Alvarez's hometown fans at the Arena VFG a chance to see their hero for the first time in 11 months. Sitting ringside was Oscar De La Hoya, who had to be pleased

outgrown the 115-pound limit, Donaire is also looking ahead to fighting bantamweights.

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Promoters: **Top Rank, PR Best Boxing Promotions**

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(7-10-10)

Saul Alvarez KO 6 Luciano Cuello

Guadalajara, Mexico: Hot off his winning appearance on the Floyd Mayweather-Shane Mosley pay-per-view undercard, Alvarez continued his undefeated streak with a brutal sixth round TKO of Cuello. The fight was part of an 11-bout boxing program put on by Golden Boy Promotions, giving Alvarez's hometown fans at the Arena VFG a chance to see their hero for the first time in 11 months. Sitting ringside was Oscar De La Hoya, who had to be pleased

with Alvarez' all-out aggression; it was the sort of display that has made Alvarez one of the most promising young prospects in the sport.

The free-swinging Alvarez, 150¼, knocked Cuello down in each of the first two rounds. Cuello, 150¼, managed to withstand Alvarez' initial attack but was no match for "Canelo."

There had been some ugly talk prior to the bout, with each fighter boasting about how much pain they planned to inflict. Alvarez, 33-0-1 (25), Juanacatlan, Mexico, said he would beat Cuello so badly that he wouldn't be able to talk after the bout. The baby-faced, redheaded Alvarez, who looks more Irish than John Duddy, lived up to his boasting, for Cuello, 26-2 (12), Madrid, Spain, by way of Argentina, was barely in the fight. Along with his impressive firepower, Alvarez showed a somewhat improved defense, for when Cuello tried to punch back, Alvarez was competent at blocking and slipping.

"I worked very hard for this fight, because I know all my opponents want to beat me," said Alvarez after the bout. "In this fight, the jab was the key, and my uppercut worked perfectly."

Indeed, it was a left uppercut that drove Cuello to the canvas in the second, after a left hook had done the job in the first. The end came when Alvarez switched to a punishing body attack. A wicked right to the ribs made Cuello wince during the sixth, and a follow-up hook to the body had him looking like a beaten man. Referee Len Koivisto (Canada) wisely stepped in to protect Cuello from more punishment, stopping the bout at 1:23 of the sixth round.

"It was a matter of time since I dropped him in the first round and then in the second," said Alvarez. "I am very happy to get the victory in front of my frenetic fans."

The win earned Alvarez, 20, a WBC "silver belt" at junior middleweight, which is the latest meaningless bauble handed out by the Mexican-based organization, created in March to replace their "interim" belts. Of far greater importance is that Alvarez continues to improve and is ranked 10th at junior middleweight by THE RING. He has a bout scheduled for the LA Staples Center in September against a yet-to-be-named opponent.

Promoters: **Golden Boy Promotions, HG Boxing**

(07-10-10)

Mike Jones KO 5 Irving Garcia

Atlantic City, New Jersey: Jones, who fits his boxing career around a gig at the Home Depot, looked to be on the verge of being able to quit his day job following his domination of Garcia at Boardwalk Hall.

Jones, 146½, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, got into a rhythm in the second round and seemed to be on his way to a kayo victory midway through the fifth round when a left uppercut strayed a bit below the belt. Garcia, 146½, Vega Baja, Puerto Rico, fell to one knee, and referee Randy Neumann (New Jersey) counted him out at the 1:22 mark. Though Garcia's team planned to issue a protest with the New Jersey boxing commission, the way this one was going, it appeared that Garcia's fate was inevitable.

Despite a pinch of controversy, this was a big night for the up-and-coming Jones, 22-0 (18), who finally appeared in a

PHOTO BY HECTOR GUERRERO/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Alvarez celebrates sixth-round kayo of Cuello

ShoBox main event. The movement of Jones, 27, has resembled a grassroots effort, with promoter J Russell Peltz and managers Doc Nowicki and Jim Williams maintaining an independence from the networks and big-name promoters. After dismantling the 31-year-old Garcia, however, Jones is poised for bigger things, including a possible fall showdown with WBC welterweight beltholder Andre Berto.

Garcia, 17-5-3 (8), was no bum. Though coming off a 14-month layoff, he owned a 2008 decision against fringe contender Chris Smith and scored a pair of knockdowns against Luis Carlos Abregu before being stopped in the fourth round of their 2009 brawl. Garcia, who gave up 4" in height, was effective with his jab in capturing a feeling-out opening round that saw a few head clashes on the inside.

Jones picked up the intensity in the second as he began to take control. Though his eyes were puffy from headbutts and jabs by the end of the round, Jones made good use of his jab and targeted the body well. He also began to find a home for his uppercut, a result of Garcia bending over on the inside. Garcia continued to land in the third as Jones' right eye began to swell, but those shots lacked enough pop to keep Jones at bay. "M.J." shook Garcia with three uppercuts to the body as the round ended.

PHOTO BY LEONEL MARTINEZ/LATIN CONTENT/GETTY IMAGES

Cazares and Morales at weigh-in

Garcia looked ready to go in the fourth, which Jones began by landing a series of hard jabs. He then started scoring with right uppercuts, which left Garcia hurt and wobbled late in the round, which Jones finished off with a pair of left hooks upstairs. Jones went right back on the attack in the fifth, landing a combo to the body. He drove Garcia into the ropes with a left hook and then unloaded. After pelting Garcia with four straight uppercuts to the body, Jones threw the one that landed a bit south of the border. Neumann, who was out of position, ruled it a legal punch and counted Garcia out.

All three New Jersey judges had Jones ahead at the time of the stoppage, with John Stewart and Steve Weisfeld each scoring it 39-37, and Hilton Whitaker seeing a shutout at 40-36. THE RING agreed with Stewart and Weisfeld's tally.

Television: **Showtime**
Promoter: **Peltz Boxing Promotions, DiBella Entertainment**
(7-9-10)

Hugo Cazares KO 7 Everardo Morales

Tlalnepantla, Mexico: Cazares made his first defense of the WBA "regular" junior bantamweight belt against the utterly undeserving Morales, who had done nothing to warrant a title shot, regular or otherwise.

Cazares, 115, Los Mochis, Mexico, dominated from the first round, doing most of his big damage with left hooks. Morales had no answers for Cazares. He could do little but bravely take punches and try to survive. Cazares treated the fight as a glorified sparring session but gradually turned up the heat on Morales. Finally, after landing what must've been his 60th hook of the night, Cazares knocked Morales to the canvas early in the seventh round. Morales, 114¾, Mexico City, Mexico, managed to beat referee Mark Nelson's count but was unable to continue. He made the motions of wanting to continue, but he looked like a thoroughly defeated fighter on slightly unsteady legs. Nelson (USA) had seen enough. The one-sided bout was waved off at 1:00 of the round, giving Cazares his first successful defense of the trinket he won last May from Nobuo Nashiro.

Fans at the Centro de Convenciones may have hoped for more, but Morales, 34-15-2 (23), is a badly faded 33-year-old "opponent" who tends to lose against decent opposition. His last two victories were against fighters with a combined record of 9-11-4. In a way, Cazares was entitled to an easy night, for he was only a handful of weeks removed from a tough bout with Nashiro, which was fought in Tokyo, Japan, before Nashiro's hometown fans. And prior to that, Cazares and Nashiro fought to a grueling 12-round draw. Still, Cazares wasn't dismissing Morales as an easy defense.

"Me and [Morales] are almost the same age. We both have traveled a long way, just in different parts, and had different results," Cazares told *notifight.com*.

This was an understatement, for Cazares, 32-6-2 (23), has been one of the top flyweights of the era, although he has done so without much fanfare. Cazares, 32, remains the number-two rated 115-pounder in THE RING rankings.

Promoters: **Ignacio Huizar, KO Entertainment, Guillermo Rocha**
(7-3-10)

Anthony Mundine W 12 Carlos Jerez

Brisbane, Australia: In July 2000, Mundine debuted at super middleweight and was eventually rated in THE RING's top 10. A former WBA beltholder at 168 pounds, the 35-year-old Mundine, known as "The Man," has become the incredible shrinking man over the last two years, winning three fights at middleweight and now prevailing in his debut match at junior middleweight.

Mundine, 153½, Sydney, Australia, fought Jerez, 153¼, Cordoba, Argentina, at the Brisbane Entertainment Centre and was rarely troubled, winning on points unanimously over 12 rounds.

"I felt good," said Mundine, 39-3 (23). "I done 12 rounds with a veteran. He was cagey. It was a great workout for me at 154 pounds. I thought I was getting stronger. I am very happy. I wanted to finish it in the late rounds. I want to get better at every outing at this weight."

The 31-year-old Jerez, 30-13-3 (16), was prepared to trade with the taller Mundine early in round one. Jerez landed a lead right hand flush on Mundine's jaw, which surprised more than hurt the Aboriginal fighter. Mundine landed a hook to the left side of Jerez, causing the visitor to complain to referee Derek Milham (Australia) that it was an illegal blow.

Mundine punctuated round two with a fast jab. A strong right hand from an attacking Jerez landed, forcing Mundine to cover up.

A left hook from Jerez glanced off Mundine's chin in round three as he pulled back with his head held dangerously high. A second left hook clipped Mundine as Jerez was pushing forward.

Mundine's jab was significant in decisioning Jerez

PHOTO BY BRADLEY KANARIS/GETTY IMAGES

In round four, Jerez worked at a solid pace, but his punches were not as accurate as the Australian's shots. Hard right hands from Mundine kept Jerez from launching an all-out onslaught. Both boxers took turns landing as the action swung both ways. A right hook from Mundine landed as Jerez leaned forward.

Mundine whipped his jab forward in round five. Jerez punched wide looking for a knockout blow. A straight right rocked Jerez and he immediately fired back.

Mundine worked at a consistent pace in round six, but possibly affected by his drop in weight, there was little real pop on his punches.

In round seven, Mundine pushed forward more confidently as Jerez was wild with his punches. The constant thud of Mundine's hands wore on Jerez as he backed away, reluctant to engage.

Mundine dug to the body in round eight. There were more wild hooks from Jerez, but Mundine looked more determined.

Jerez, with a tattoo of Argentine middleweight great Carlos Monzon on his left shoulder, didn't have the same sort of success his hero had against Mundine's father, Tony Mundine, in October 1974. Round nine was slower as Mundine looked for an opening to land his best right hand.

By round 10, Jerez was just surviving. He launched the occasional wild swing, but Mundine was coasting to another win.

Mundine pressed forward in round 11. Jerez punched from different angles and used lots of head movement, trying to discourage Mundine.

In round 12, Jerez' right eye was puffy and black underneath. Mundine slipped when backing up on the ropes. It was a fast finish and a little wild from both boxers.

Mundine won a unanimous decision on the scorecards of judges Cyril Cairns (Australia) 118-110, Adrian Cairns (Australia) 118-110, and Wally Lewis (Australia) 120-109. THE RING gave Mundine the decision, 118-110.

In the ring after his victory was announced, fellow Australian Ryan Waters confronted Mundine. "If you want some, I'm going to give you some," Mundine yelled across the ring at his next opponent.

The two boxers went nose to nose. Mundine then pushed Waters away violently and turned to the crowd and yelled, "Line them up. For all my fans. It's going to be like dominos." Which might be a little unlikely at this weight, considering Mundine's last nine wins have all gone the distance.

Promoter: **Tony Mundine**

(6-30-10)

Paul Upham

Ulises Solis W 10 Eric Ortiz

Reno, Nevada: Two former flyweight beltholders headlined a Grand Sierra Resort & Casino show as part of Reno's Fourth of July weekend Centennial Celebration of the historic Jack Johnson-Jim Jeffries bout of 1910. The bout didn't exactly create history, but Solis needed all of his talents to win a unanimous 10-round decision.

Ortiz, 113, Mexico City, Mexico, was competitive during the early rounds, but Solis, 113½, Guadalajara, Mexico, settled down in the third, using his jab to keep Ortiz at a distance. From there, Solis used a workmanlike pattern of jabs and hooks to dictate the fight, scoring a knockdown in each of the last two rounds on the way to his victory. Nevada judges Burt Clements, Herb Santos, and Eric Cheek turned in scores of 98-89, 98-89, and 99-88, respectively.

Solis, 31-2-2 (21), had scored a ninth-round stoppage of Ortiz in 2006. Although he failed to score a kayo this time, he was every bit as dominating, peppering Ortiz with jabs and counter punches throughout the bout. Except for the moment in the ninth when referee Jay Nady (USA) deducted a point from Solis for pushing Ortiz down, he was in control the entire time. After the deduction, Solis grew more aggressive, tagging Ortiz with several blows that snapped his head back. A right hand thrown just before the bell rang caused Ortiz to lose his balance and touch down with one

glove on the canvas, which Nady correctly ruled a knockdown. Solis scored a virtually identical knockdown in the 10th.

Having won only once in four previous bouts, Ortiz, 32-11-3 (21), wasn't expected to win, but he pressed forward the entire bout and even buzzed Solis with a right in the second round. Still, he couldn't solve Solis' style, hence the lopsided scoring. Ortiz, 33, has been kayoed nine times, and might be entering the final act of his career. He's better than a trialhorse but not quite a contender anymore.

Meanwhile, at 28, Solis can still be a factor in the flyweight classes.

"I showed I'm still a world-class fighter and I want to move forward," Solis said.

The win over Ortiz was Solis' third consecutive victory since losing by kayo to Brian Viloria last April. He might be looking for a mandatory shot at the WBC belt worn by Omar Nino. Solis was ranked number eight by THE RING going into the bout.

Television: **Fox Sports Net/ Fox Sports en Español**
Promoters: **Top Rank, Let's Get It On Promotions**
(7-3-10)

Comebacking Barrera has DeJesus covering up

PHOTO BY ROBERT HUGHES/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Marco Antonio Barrera W 10 Adailton DeJesus

San Antonio, Texas: The prime Barrera of 10 years ago is never going to return, but, against the right opponent, the 36-year-old Mexican legend can still appear dominant, and the little-known DeJesus was just such an opponent. Fighting in the co-feature to Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. vs. John Duddy at the Alamodome, Barrera won a comfortable, somewhat boring 10-round unanimous decision over DeJesus, possibly setting himself up for an alphabet title fight that won't be nearly as easy. It was Barrera's first fight in 15 months, since he suffered a nasty gash on his forehead against Amir Khan and lost a technical decision.

Looking a bit fleshy around the middle at a career-high 141 pounds, Barrera emerged from his corner for the first round unexpectedly aggressive, seemingly trying to make it a quick night. He ripped one left hook after another to the body and head of DeJesus, 138, Sao Paolo, Brazil, and the 31-year-old underdog's response consisted mostly of trying his best not to stand still and take a beating. The second and third rounds looked much like the first, with the veteran from Mexico City continuing to punch as he pleased.

The fight swung briefly in the fourth, however, when DeJesus flipped an offensive switch and landed good combinations, particularly to Barrera's body. At his peak, Barrera would have responded with effective counterpunches, but this older, slower version of the future Hall of Famer wasn't able to get off those retaliatory shots.

Still, Barrera bounced right back the next round, and DeJesus, though game, never really threatened again. Barrera was able to dodge most of the Brazilian's offerings and "The Baby-Faced Assassin" remained accurate with his punches, although he never seemed to hurt DeJesus, 26-5 (21). Barrera turned more to the double jab in the last couple of rounds, coasting to a points win rather than taking any obvious risks in pursuit of a knockout.

The three Texas judges were all in the same neighborhood. Joel Elizondo had it a 100-90 shutout, Ruben Carrion scored it 99-91, and Chet Robins saw it 98-92, all for Barrera. THE RING had it the same as Carrion, 99-91.

According to new promoter Bob Arum, Barrera, 66-7 (43) with 1 no-contest, intends to drop back down to 135 pounds and possibly challenge Humberto Soto or Miguel Acosta for

an alphabet belt in the fall. Based on the evidence shown against DeJesus, winning a title won't be easy—and making the lightweight limit might not be either.

Television: **Pay-Per-View**
Promoter: **Top Rank**
(6-26-10)

Tyson Fury KO 9 John McDermott

Brentwood, England: Their first bout in September 2009 was the subject of much controversy, a few conspiracy theories, and, ultimately, a hearing held by the British Boxing Board of Control when Fury was adjudged to be the winner on points after many observers thought McDermott deserved the nod. But all doubt was eliminated in a rematch several months too many in the making as Fury, 270, Wilmslow, England, seized the initiative from the outset and sustained his bombardment of McDermott, 254, Horndon, England, until the bout was stopped in the ninth round at the Brentood Centre, with Fury confirmed as the new English heavyweight champion.

At 6'7" and built proportionately, Fury is a formidable specimen, particularly in today's moribund heavyweight division. McDermott has never had the frame of a heavyweight contender-in-the-making, but his looks have often been deceiving, for on many nights he has displayed ample talent in addition to his ample girth. In his biggest bouts, however, he has come up short against the likes of former world heavyweight title challenger Danny Williams and Matt Skelton, who held the European title. Fury, 11-0 (9), was born into an Irish travelers' family with a long history of participation in boxing and bareknuckle bouts, and, in 2006, he demonstrated his potential when he secured a bronze medal at the world junior championships. Unbeaten entering his rematch with McDermott, he knew he needed to show his true worth to stand any chance of progression to the heights that are his ambition to scale and—at the second time of asking—he did not disappoint.

Swift combinations found their target in the opening round as the jab played a key part in establishing range and effectiveness for the 22-year-old. McDermott, 25-7 (16), has always been obdurate and durable, and he did not press any panic buttons. But the 30-year-old could not get his own punches off quickly enough either, failing to follow up on a solid right hand that clipped Fury's chin, and, by the third round, the taller man was more at ease, picking off McDermott with his jab and rocking him with a battery of blows, including a right uppercut, before the bell.

Fury did not have everything his own way, however, and appeared to tire, which allowed McDermott to get back into it in the middle rounds. But it was always an uphill struggle as McDermott lacked the fitness and finesse to really take a stranglehold on affairs. He did his best, hurting Fury with a right to the jaw and trying to put together the punches that could fell the big man and cause an upset. He even drew blood along the side of Fury's right eye with a hard and accurate double left hook, but Fury weathered the blows. He had to withstand further punishment in the eighth before a combination of his own culminated in a right to the chin that sent McDermott to the floor. Referee Dave Parris (England) took up the count and the bell intervened before a rapidly tiring McDermott could be stung again.

The respite was brief, however. McDermott made a brave last stand but was knocked to the canvas for a second time, courtesy of another hard right. The end was in sight and Fury applied the cruel climax in the form of another short and deadly right to the chin. McDermott went down for the third time in total and Parris waved it over. In a heavyweight division devoid of star performers, such results can have massive reverberations.

Promoter: **Mick Hennessy**
(6-25-10)
Brian Doogan ■

 (Continued from Page 26)

loss to Ronny Rios in the final left him with a silver and doubts about his future.

"I was very discouraged," said Diaz, whose Jersey swagger is tempered by disarming layers of humor and sensitivity. "That happened to me a lot in the amateurs. I would get really far in a tournament, but, for whatever reason, I wouldn't get a fair shake. I would lose a fight I should have won. The Golden Gloves tournament was my confidence booster. I was going to have something to show to promoters. When I didn't win it, I just got very discouraged. I thought, *maybe boxing's not for me.*"

Told he couldn't make any money at his weight, Diaz was considering leaving the sport and getting a normal job. Alessi, who knew Diaz throughout his amateur career, told the dejected fighter to give him a call before making any decisions. The two later had dinner, Diaz was convinced to sign with Alessi and Lynch, and in November 2007 Diaz turned pro with a fourth-round stoppage of Anolan Rigal at the Paradise Theatre in the Bronx, New York.

"I think he liked what I was telling him to do as a pro," said Skowronski, who began training Diaz after the fighter signed with Lynch and Alessi. "He's a kid who's a good puncher who didn't have a body attack. And he's a shorter guy. I said, 'You have to reverse your style. Instead of going from the head working down, you've got to go from the body working up.' Him reversing that is why I think he has a good knockout ratio."

While Skowronski said Diaz has been self-motivated and dedicated in the gym from the start, Diaz admits he was never thinking beyond the next fight in those early months. "Even when I turned pro, I really wasn't into it half of my first year," he said. "I was just doing it because I got my signing bonus and I wanted to make some money."

Diaz was still thinking about getting a job or trying to start his own business. Meanwhile, a cousin named Alex Santana constantly told him: "Your job is to box. Be a boxer." As the wins piled up and he continued to be matched against tougher opponents, Diaz said he slowly recognized that boxing was his calling. "I saw that I had to be a unique fighter," Diaz said, "because no one gets matched that tough that early in their career."

He broke through in October 2009, when he took out former Cuban Olympic gold medalist Yan Barthelemy with a left hook in the sixth and final round. In March, Diaz scored a pair of early knockdowns in pulling out a close unanimous decision against previously unbeaten Alejandro Lopez in a Fox Sports Net-televised co-feature. And in June, Diaz got significant exposure as he stopped Jae Sung Lee in the sixth round on the untelevised portion of the Miguel Cotto-Yuri Foreman undercard at Yankee Stadium.

Team Diaz claims the ambitious matchmaking is geared toward development. "We're not going to rush him," said Alessi, who would like to see Diaz in a major fight after his 17th or 18th bout. Skowronski feels Diaz is about a year away from facing contenders, while Lynch places the timeframe at a similar 12-to-18 months.

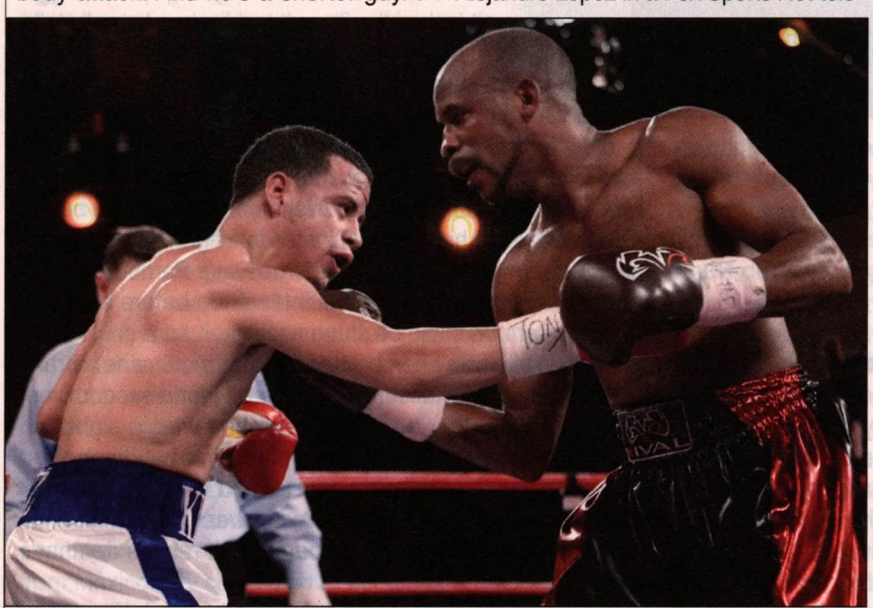
"It's a learning process," said Top Rank matchmaker Brad Goodman, who put together the bouts with Barthelemy, Lopez, and Lee. "He's looked spectacular in some fights and very ordinary in others. But it's all a learning process. He's still a young kid. We believe as time goes on, he has the potential to develop into something special."

In his youth, Diaz was told by his father that his athletic potential involved a baseball glove. Diaz was an army brat who moved back and forth between New Jersey and Puerto Rico and even spent some time in Germany. He played several different sports, but baseball seemed to be the only one in which he excelled. As a freshman at North Brunswick High School, Diaz started at second base and was the leadoff hitter on the varsity team.

But Diaz had been introduced to boxing a few years before at age 11, while living in Puerto Rico, by cousin Jonathan Gonzalez, who is now an unbeaten pro welterweight. Diaz soon began showing up at the gym regularly. With his amateur career progressing, he opted to give up baseball in the middle of his sophomore season.

And what attracted young Diaz to the sport is, at the core, what has kept him in it to date and forged his path: The kid just loves trading punches. "It's all about fighting," Diaz said, laughing. "At that age, it's all about fighting. It's all about fighting, getting good at fighting, so that when you fight in the streets, you could beat somebody.

"I didn't know boxing would take me to where I am now." ■



Diaz took a major step in his young career when he stopped Cuban Olympic gold medalist Yan Barthelemy in the sixth round of their October 2009 bout. It was the first time Barthelemy had been stopped as a professional and vaulted Diaz into a different realm, attracting more interest with his fan-friendly style.

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Sept. 2008: Antonio Margarito: Is He The Man To Cut Down Cotto? **Also Inside:** De La Hoya-Forbes, Amir Khan, best & worst managed fighters, "long-timers," *American Son* excerpt.

Fall 2008: All-Star Report Cards. **Also Inside:** Hatton-Lazcano, Kelly Pavlik, Timothy Bradley, Eddie Perkins, U.S. Olympic team.

Oct. 2008: Manny Pacquiao — New Worlds To Conquer. **Also Inside:** Chris Arreola, Floyd Mayweather, Holly Holm, Paul Malignaggi, 10 moments that changed boxing.

Nov. 2008: Antonio Margarito: Why Would Anyone Want To Fight This Man? **Also Inside:** Pavlik-Hopkins preview, Klitschko vs. Klitschko, Dawson-Tarver, Calzaghe-Jones preview, Enzo Calzaghe, Hall of Fame.

Dec. 2008: Oscar vs. Pac-Man Superfight Special! 10 Burning Questions, Big Man vs. Little Man, Experts Picks. **Also Inside:** Beijing Olympics, Ricky Hatton, Joshua Clottey, Juan Manuel Marquez, Prescott-Khan, boxing & race.

Jan. 2009: Bernard Hopkins: A Once In A Lifetime Phenomenon. **Also Inside:** Klitschko brothers, Paul Williams, *Contender 4,* Mosley-Mayorga, Chad Dawson, THE RING 100.

Feb. 2009: A Look Ahead To 2009. **Also Inside:** Hatton-Malignaggi, Calzaghe-Jones, Haye-Barrett, Darchinyan-Mijares, Juan Manuel Marquez, super middleweights.

March 2009: Fighter Of The Year Manny Pacquiao: Can He Carry The Load From The Man He Conquered? **Also Inside:** 2008 in review, best fighter poll, Juan Manuel Lopez, Baby Arizmendi.

April 2009: Crucial Decision! A Mayweather Comeback Could Reshape Boxing History. **Also Inside:** David Haye, Brian Mitchell, Pacquiao vs. Armstrong, footwork, Battle of the Legends.

May 2009: Pacquiao vs. Hatton — 20 Experts Pick The Winner. **Also Inside:** Mosley-Margarito, Mayweather vs. Roach, Andre Berto, Vic Darchinyan, Cotto & Pavlik, weigh-in controversy.

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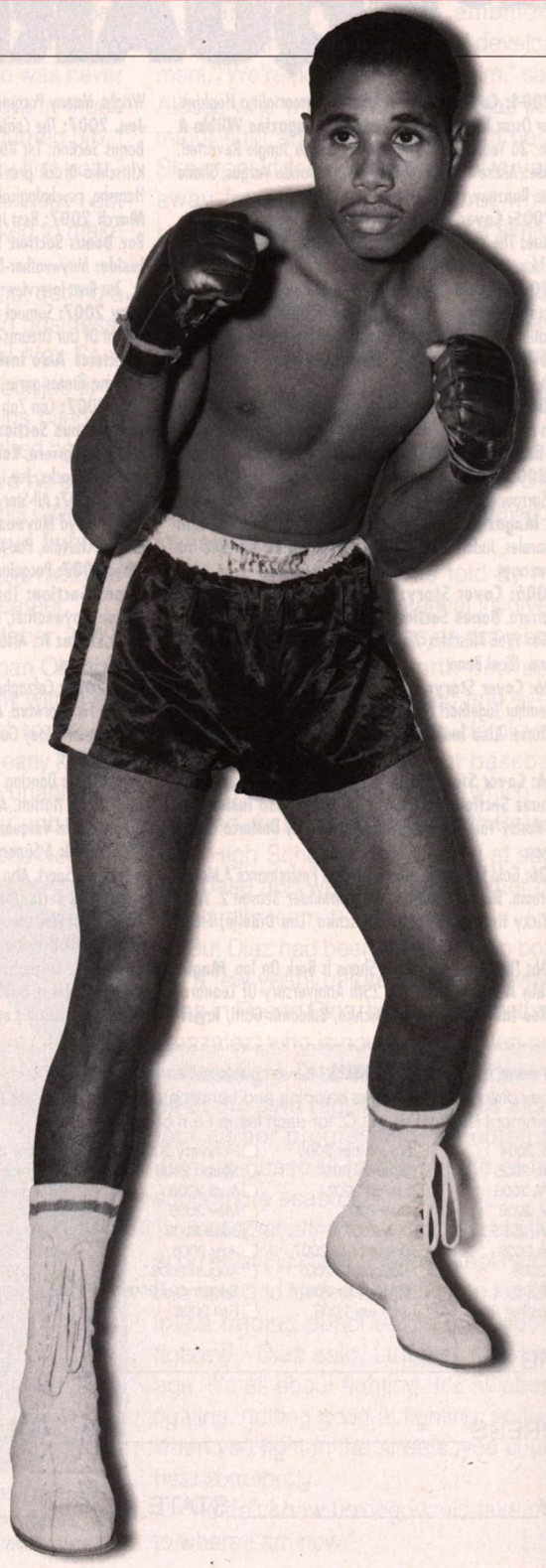
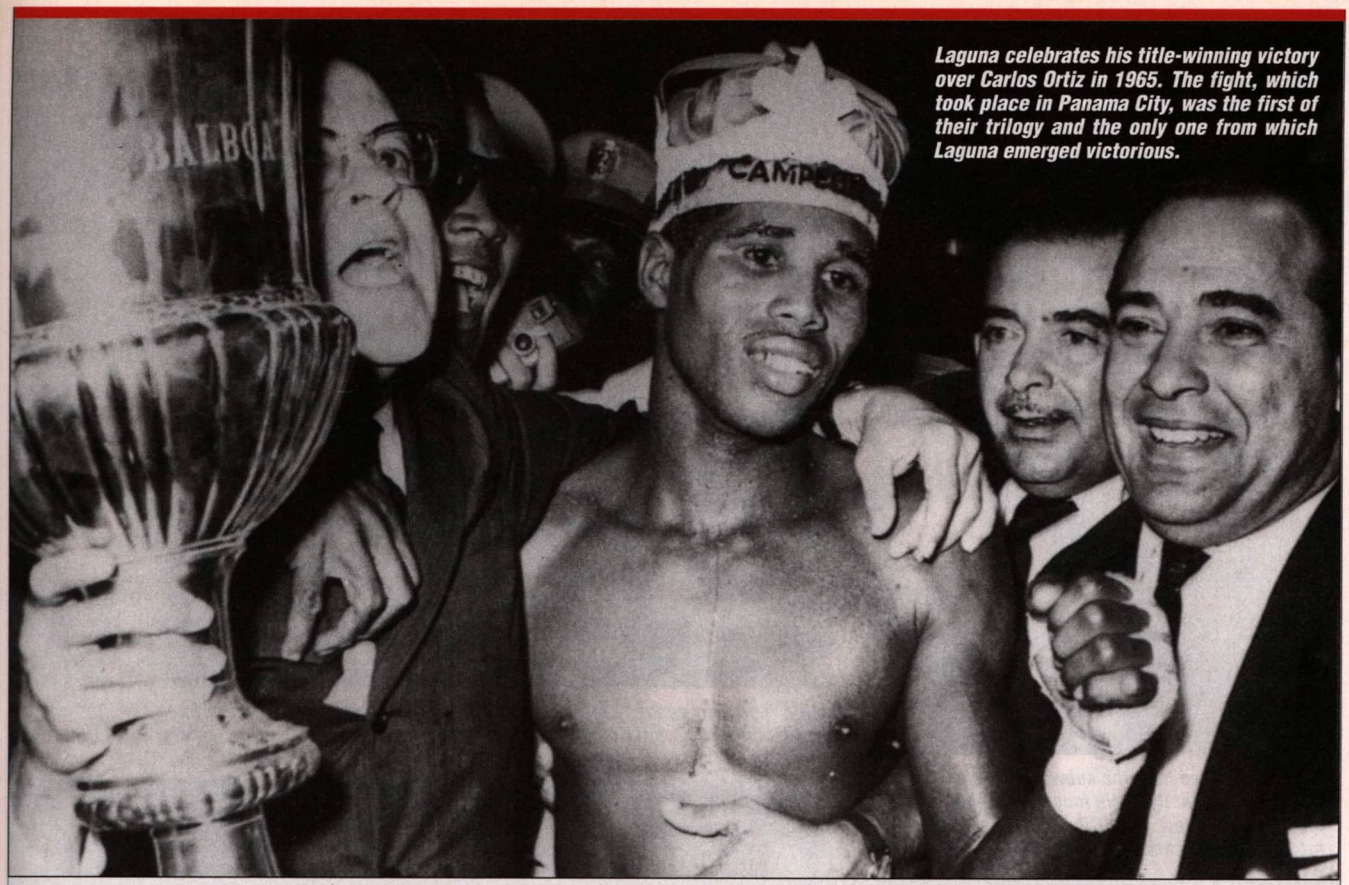
[Hall of Fame Profile]

THE RING features a thumbnail biography of a ring great who has received the ultimate honor: induction into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in Canastota, New York

Ismael Laguna

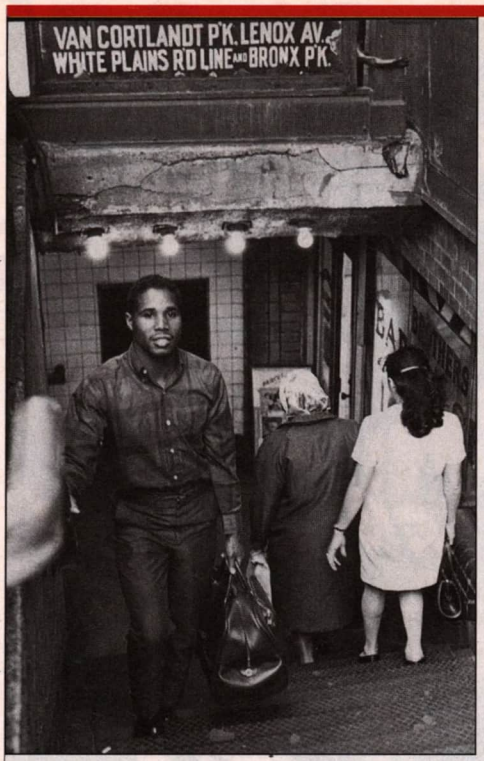


Birthdate: June 28, 1943
Birthplace: Colon, Panama
Nickname: El Tigre Colonese (The Tiger of Colon)
Weight Class: Lightweight
Record: 65-9-1 (37)
Titles Held: World, WBC, WBA Lightweight
Best Performances: Mando Ramos (KO 9), Carlos Ortiz (W 15), Nicolino Locche (D 10), Angel Robinson Garcia (W 10), Chango Carmona (W 10), Guts Ishimatsu (KO 13), Carlos Hernandez (KO 8), Lloyd Marshall (KO 9, W 10), Victor Melendez (W 10), Ray Adigun (W 10), Percy Hayles (KO 6), Eugenio Espinoza (W 10), Perdo Ortoz (KO 7)
Year of IBHOF Induction: 2001
Background: Began fighting on the streets during his childhood as a newspaper and shoeshine boy, sticking up for smaller kids ... Turned pro on August 21, 1960, knocking out Antonio Morgan in the second round ... Garnered attention with seventh-round knockout of Pedro "Manhattan Kid" Ortiz to capture the Panamanian featherweight title in September '62 ... According to writer Christian Giudice, by the time Laguna challenged world lightweight champion Carlos Ortiz on April 10, 1965, he was "the embodiment of all the qualities that composed the flashy Panamanian boxing style: the wide stance, the hunched shoulders, the lightening jab, quick combinations, and herky-jerky lateral movement that gave opponents fits and made him nearly untouchable" ... Won the title with a majority 15-round decision over Ortiz but lost it back to the Puerto Rican via decision in a November '65 rematch ... Seven victories in his next eight fights (including an infamous decision over Frankie Narvaez that caused a riot at Madison Square Garden) led to rubber match with Ortiz, which the Panamanian also lost via decision ... Beat 10 of his next 11 opponents to earn title shot against Mando Ramos, regaining the 135-pound title by ninth-round TKO in front of 15,000 pro-Ramos fans at the Los Angles Sports Arena on March 3, 1970 ... Tallied lone successful defense of two reigns by stopping Guts Ishimatsu in the 13th round in June '70 ... Lost title later that year when Ken Buchanan upset him via 15-round split decision ... Retired at age 28 following rematch loss to Buchanan on September 13, 1971 ... Worked at Panama's national casino after quitting the ring but lost lucrative post due to political changes and fell into poverty ... Upon his induction into the International Boxing Hall of Fame, he revealed to THE RING that he had fought his entire career suffering from sickle-cell anemia (a genetic blood disease), which makes his boxing accomplishments all the more remarkable ... Was the boyhood hero of Roberto Duran, Panama's most celebrated fighter ... Survived heart attack in 2009.

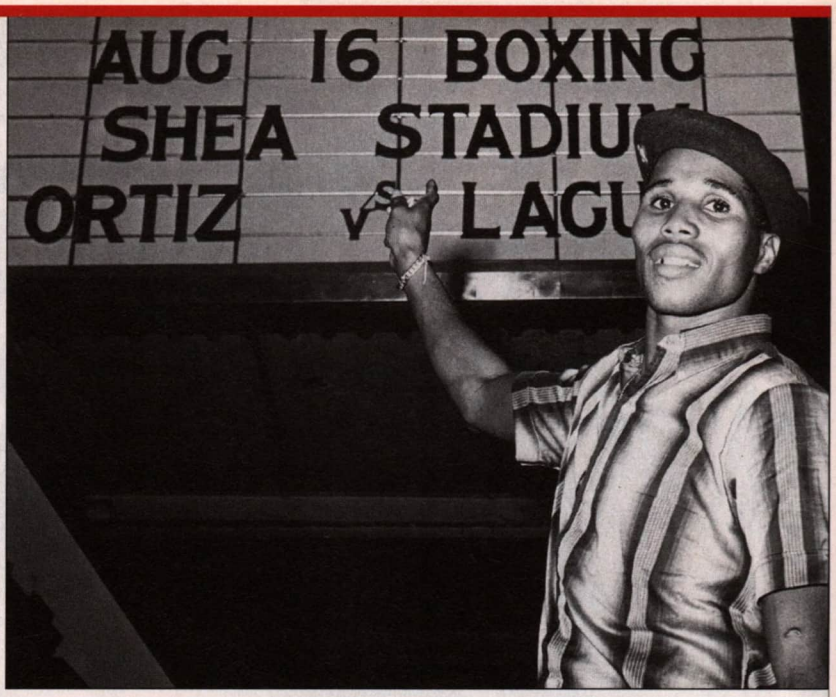


Laguna celebrates his title-winning victory over Carlos Ortiz in 1965. The fight, which took place in Panama City, was the first of their trilogy and the only one from which Laguna emerged victorious.

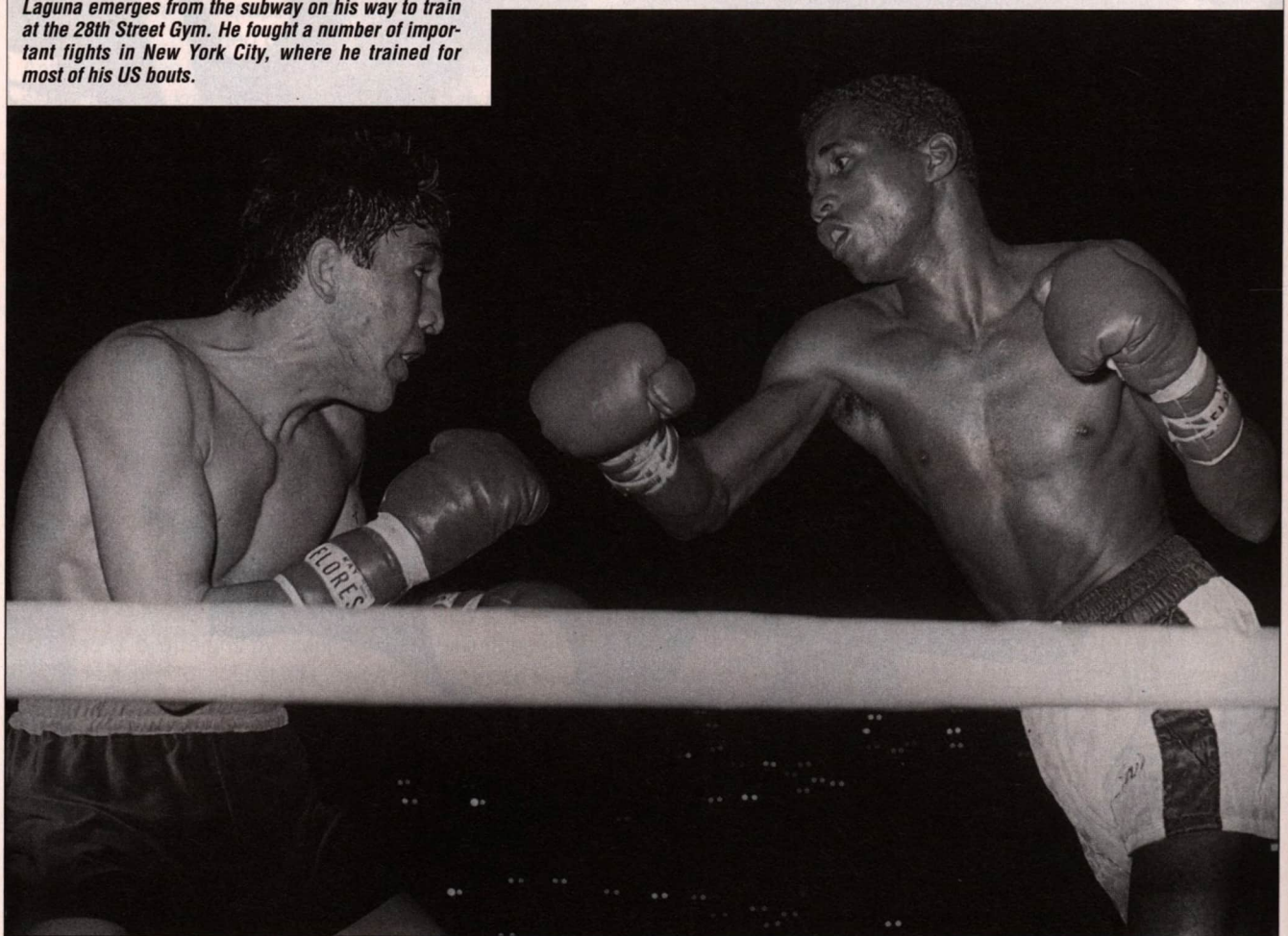
The well-traveled Laguna, who fought in 11 different countries during his pro career, points to his hometown of Colon printed on the side of his kitbag.



Laguna emerges from the subway on his way to train at the 28th Street Gym. He fought a number of important fights in New York City, where he trained for most of his US bouts.

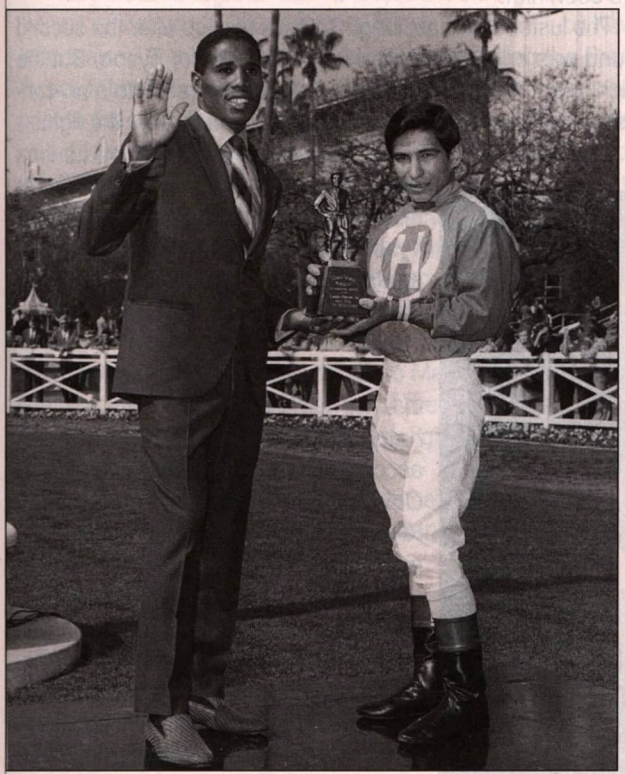


Little men, big venue: Laguna poses in front of the marquee outside Shea Stadium where he lost his 1967 rubber match with Carlos Ortiz.



Laguna is pictured en route to regaining the lightweight title against Mando Ramos in front of a hostile crowd in Los Angeles. The flashy Panamanian used his slashing left jab to tear open cuts over both of Ramos' eyes and force a ninth-round stoppage.

Champion Laguna and challenger Ken Buchanan chow down on a huge sandwich at a New York City press conference to hype their upcoming title fight in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Buchanan won the title by a close, 15-round split decision, ending Laguna's championship days.

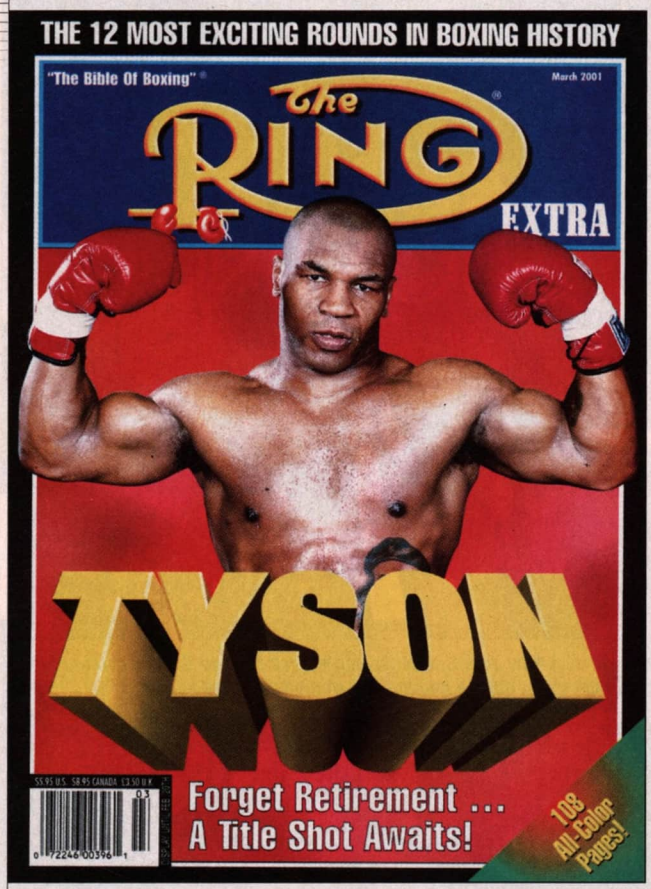


Shortly after regaining the title in March 1970, Laguna presented fellow Panamanian Laffit Picay with the George Woolf Trophy as Jockey of the Year.

Laguna displays the flag of Panama during his 2001 induction into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in Canastota, New York.

PHOTO BY PAT ORR

March 2001



COVER STORY: "Tyson's Not Ready To Punch Out! Forget Retirement A Title Shot Awaits" by Joseph Santoliquito delves into Mike Tyson's climb back into the heavyweight ranks.

"We can't get rid of him. Mike Tyson haunts us like an obese uncle with bad breath and even worse BO, hovering around the kitchen looking for seconds," Santoliquito writes. "You would think that boxing's number-one bad boy would have squandered his seconds, thirds, and fourths during his tempestuous career. But after dispatching Andrew Golota at The Palace in Auburn Hills, Tyson may have finally *earned* another helping of boxing's biggest pie."

The story explores the fact that Tyson showed some traces of his old self against Golota and noted his ability to still sell out large venues in the twilight of his career. Even so, his return to the top 10 may have said more about the dearth of heavyweight talent than anything Tyson was doing. Still, some fooled themselves into thinking "Iron Mike" was completely back.

"This is the best Mike has looked since I've been training him," said Tommy Brooks, Tyson's head trainer. "He looked real good, I thought. He was moving his head; he was attacking. He looked like the old Tyson. This is the most motivated I've seen him."

The luster didn't last long. Golota's quit job after the second round was originally scored as a TKO win for Tyson. But the Michigan Athletic Commission changed the result to a no-contest when Tyson tested positive for marijuana after the fight.

Two fights later, Tyson was stopped in eight by Lennox Lewis. He would have three more fights after that, losing his last two. Like Golota, Tyson would quit during his final bout, against journeyman Kevin McBride in June 2005.

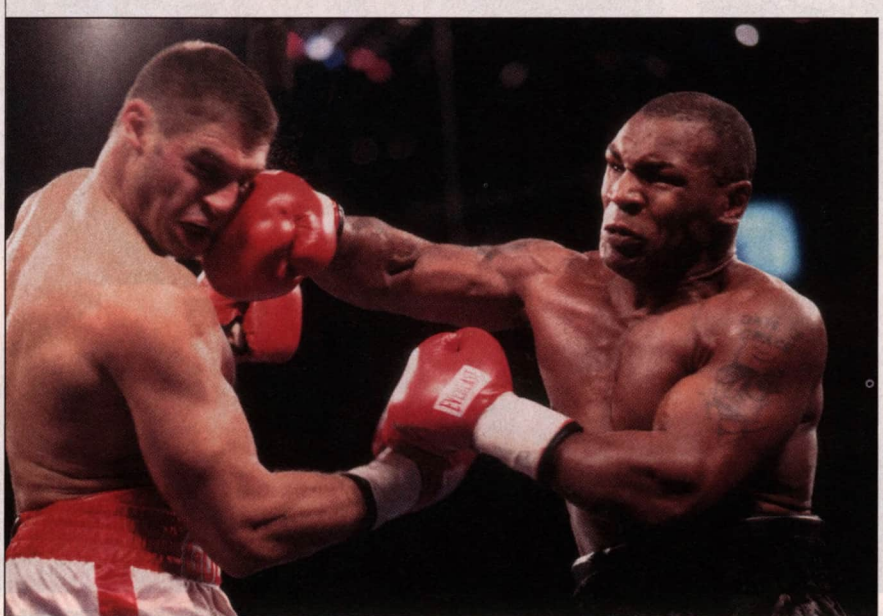


PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

Tyson distorts Golota's face with a brutal right

"A Byrd's Eye View: One Klitschko Too Many" is heavyweight contender Chris Byrd's account of what it was like traveling to Cologne, Germany, to face Wladimir Klitschko. Byrd provided a firsthand account of the fight.

"Wladimir looked very determined, but, after two rounds, it seemed he was getting frustrated," Byrd writes. "Unfortunately, at the end of the second, I got hit in the left eye, and it felt like something scratched my eyeball. It immediately started to swell and it went downhill after that."

Byrd lost a unanimous decision. Two years later, he claimed the vacant IBF heavyweight title by defeating Evander Holyfield but was stopped in a 2006 rematch with Klitschko, ending his days as a top heavyweight.

"Hail, Cesar: Remembering The Brilliance Of J.C. Superstar" by William Dettloff covers what turned out to be Julio Cesar Chavez' last title fight, in which Chavez was soundly thrashed in six rounds by WBC junior welterweight titlist Kostya Tszyu. Many thought Chavez would retire after the one-sided loss to Tszyu, and the article is partially a tribute to his many accomplishments, including Chavez' magnificent victory over Edwin Rosario and his unforgettable last-second stoppage of Meldrick Taylor to capture the 1990s' Fight of the Decade.

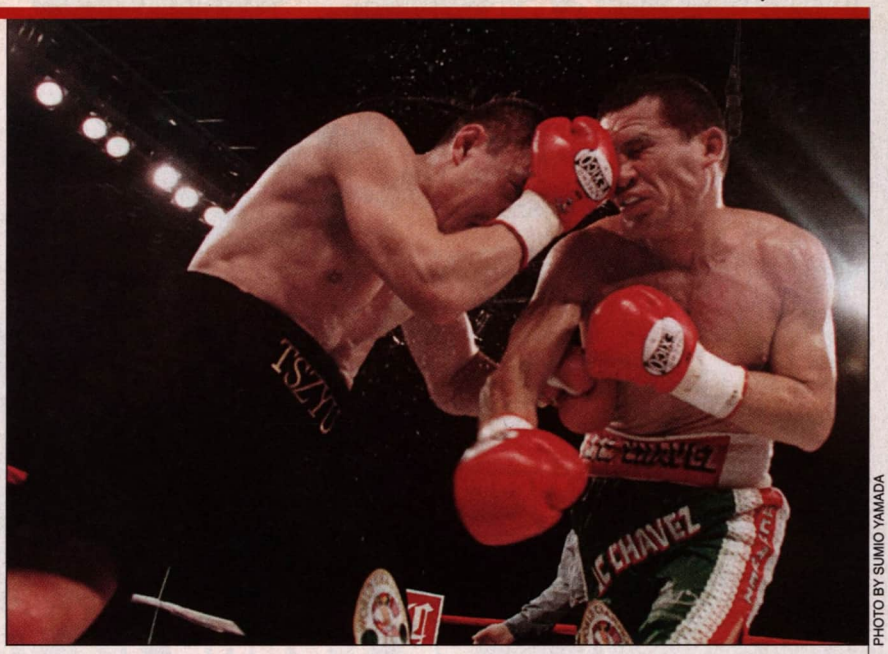


PHOTO BY SUMIO YAMADA

Tszyu crushes the aged Chavez in J.C. Superstar's last title bid

"The 12 Most Exciting Rounds in Boxing History" is a compilation of boxing's greatest rounds. Some of the featured rounds are the 15th round from the Larry Holmes-Ken Norton fight, eighth round from Matthew Saad Muhammad-Yaqui Lopez II, fourth round from George Foreman-Ron Lyle bout, and tumultuous first round from the Marvin Hagler-Tommy Hearns tilt.

"Ayala-Tapia II: Controversy Everywhere Except Between The Ropes" by Kevin Iole deals with the wild, wacky events surrounding the Paulie Ayala-Johnny Tapia rematch. Tapia changed promoters just prior to the fight, forcing the contracts to be restructured. What was originally supposed to be a title fight was changed to a non-title fight and then changed back again. Neither fighter wanted to enter the ring first, so they each walked out simultaneously with their ring-walk music clashing against each other. Ayala beat Tapia again via 12-round decision.

Tapia went on to win the IBF featherweight title in April 2002, winning a controversial decision over Manuel Medina, but then suffered a lopsided defeat to Marco Antonio Barrera later that year. Tapia was never the same fighter again, but he has fought on and was scheduled to fight Frankie Archuleta when this issue went to press.

Ayala would win the world junior featherweight title in August 2001, with a split decision victory over Bones Adams. He retired in 2004—after losing to Barrera.

"British Olympic Champ Audley Harrison: Is He The Next Lennox Lewis Or The New Frank Bruno?" by Brian Doogan discusses England's latest heavyweight hope. Harrison had won the super heavyweight gold medal at the 2000 Olympics and had not had a professional fight yet, but there were already estimates flying around that he would be able to earn $100-million if he realized his dream of becoming heavyweight world champ inside of three years.

"I aspire to be like Muhammad Ali," Harrison said. "I want to get to the top of the mountain. I believe I can."

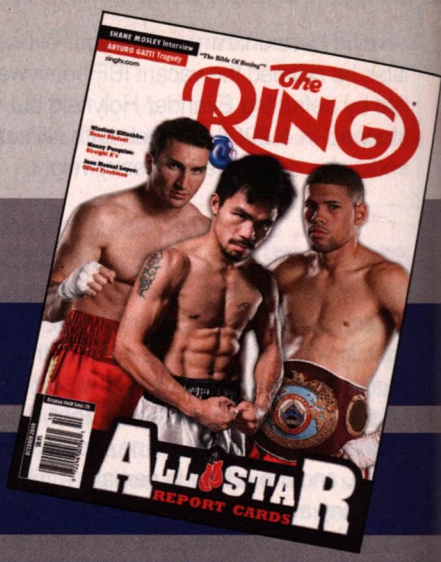
Harrison believed wrong. He never fought for a major title during his first three years as a pro and, after suffering four losses to run-of-the-mill opponents, he was considered finished. But four consecutive victories have sparked talk of a showdown with current WBA heavyweight titleholder David Haye. ■

World Champions

(THE RING did not have a championship policy in 2001, so the fighters listed below in each weight division are THE RING's number-one contenders for the period ended November 7, 2001)

Heavyweight: Lennox Lewis
Cruiserweight: Juan Carlos Gomez
Light Heavyweight: Roy Jones
Super Middleweight: Sven Ottke
Middleweight: Bernard Hopkins
Junior Middleweight: Felix Trinidad
Welterweight: Shane Mosley
Junior Welterweight: Kostya Tszyu
Lightweight: Jose Luis Castillo
Junior Lightweight: Diego Corrales
Featherweight: Naseem Hamed
Junior Featherweight: Marco Antonio Barrera
Bantamweight: Paulie Ayala
Junior Bantamweight: Mark Johnson
Flyweight: Eric Morel
Junior Flyweight: Ricardo Lopez
Strawweight: Zolani Petelo

The RING



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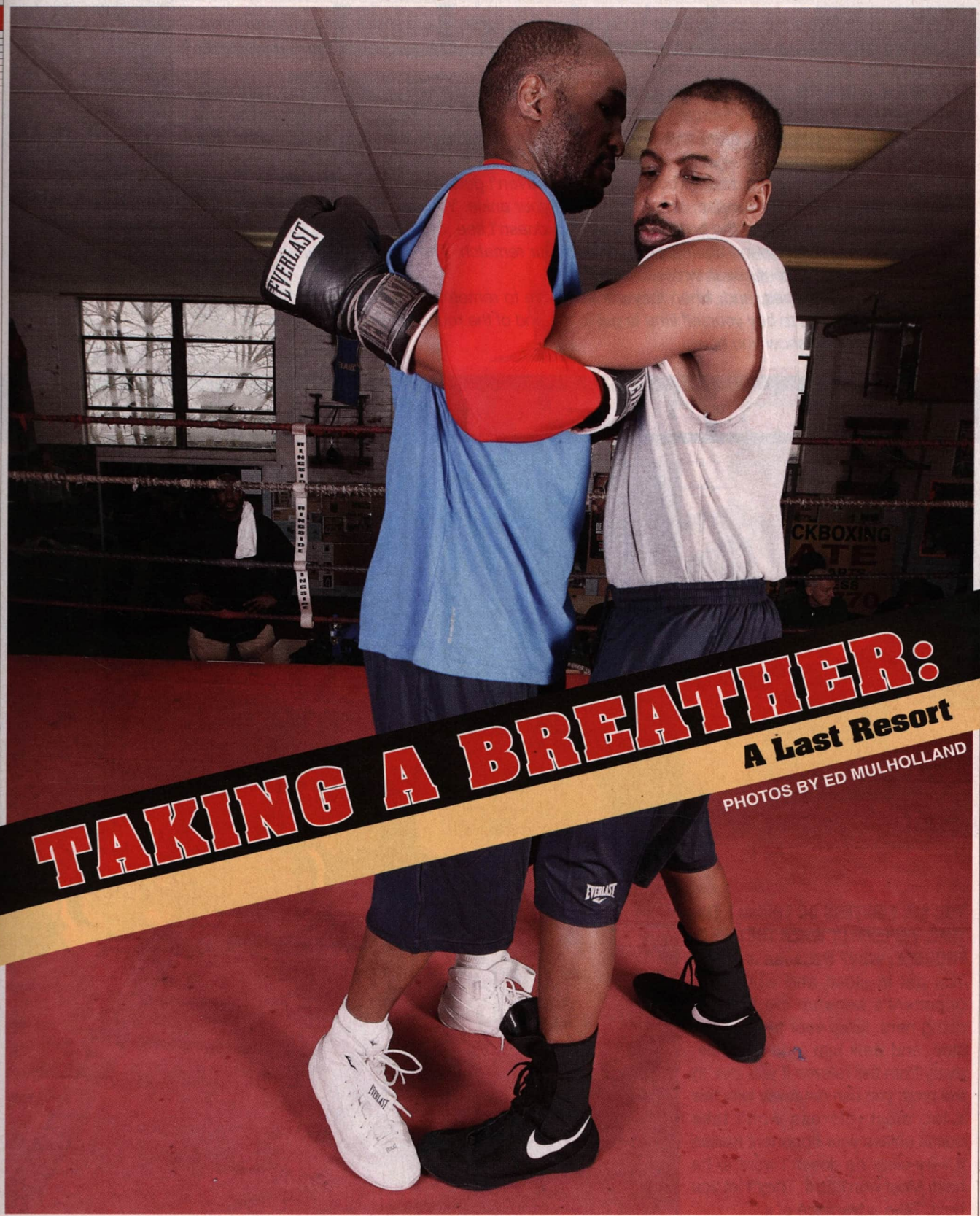
Boxing Lessons From A Living Legend

By Bernard Hopkins



TAKING A BREATHER:

A Last Resort

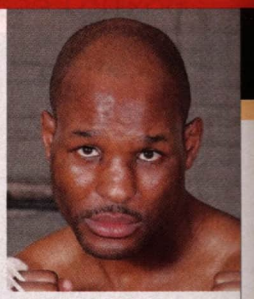
PHOTOS BY ED MULHOLLAND

If you do everything you're supposed to do as a serious fighter, there should almost never come a time when you have to take a breather or stall for time in the middle of a round. Your job is to make the other guy look for a break.

Your job is to work: to get position, to throw combinations, to keep your hands up, your chin down, and your eyes straight ahead, and to always be on balance. You do all that consistently, chances are good you won't have to worry too much about making it to the end of the round. But sometimes things happen.

You get caught and get buzzed. You get tired and haven't gotten a second wind yet. You get a muscle cramp, or hurt your hand, or shoulder, or twist your ankle. You can catch a thumb in the eye or get hit with a punch below the belt that the referee doesn't see, or one on the back of the head, which is what happened to me against Roy Jones in our rematch. The ref saw it happen so I didn't have to stall; I got time to recover, which is in the rules.

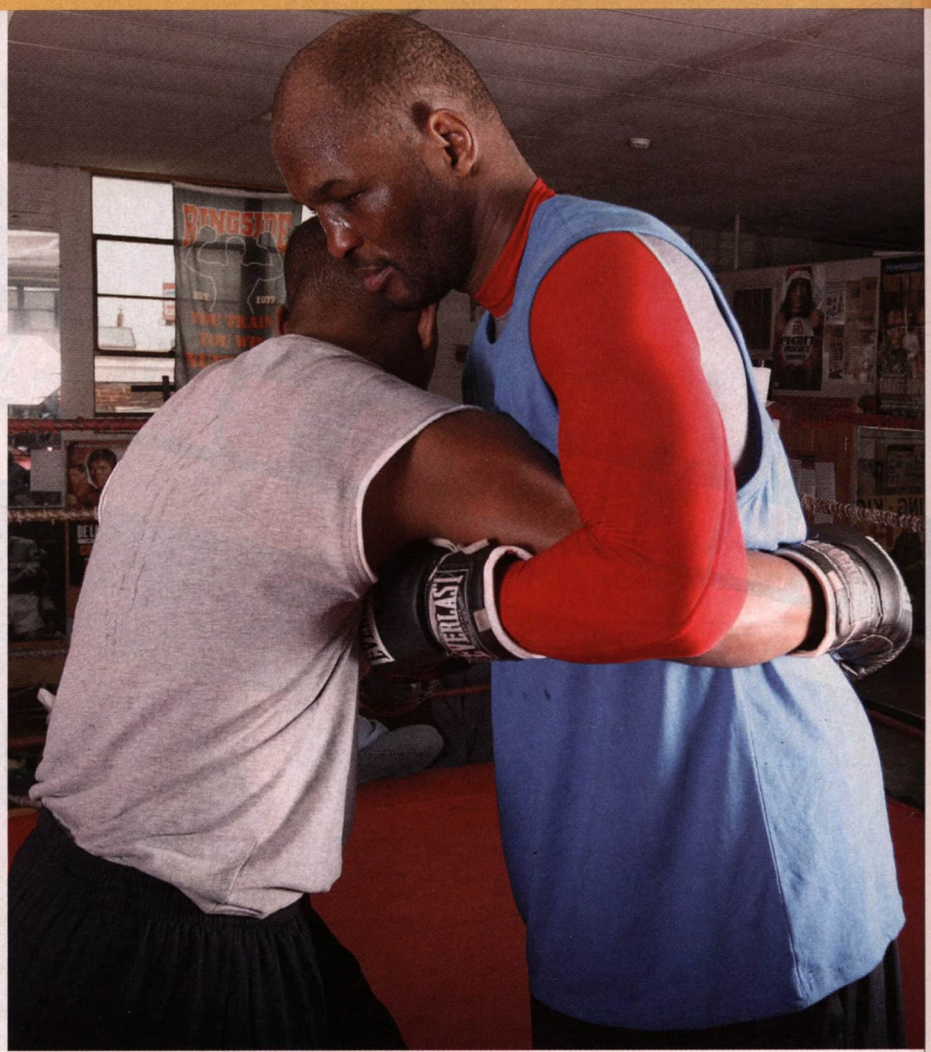
Things like this happen, and, when they do, you have to remember the fundamentals and don't panic. There are ways to buy yourself time to get to the end of the round when you're in trouble. Here Arnold Joseph and I show you how.



BERNARD HOPKINS
Is the former middleweight and light heavyweight champion of the world.

(All photos taken at Andy Carr's Gym in Upper Darby, PA)

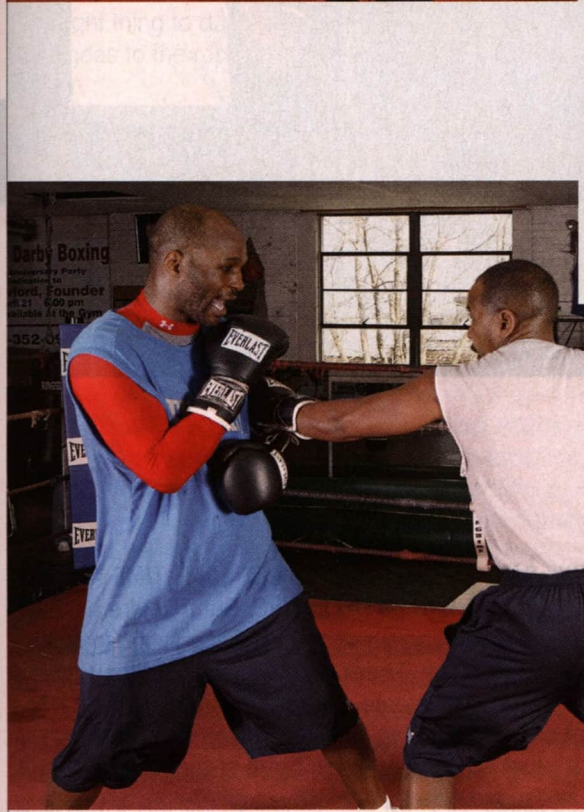
GET CLOSE AND CLINCH, BUT DO IT RIGHT



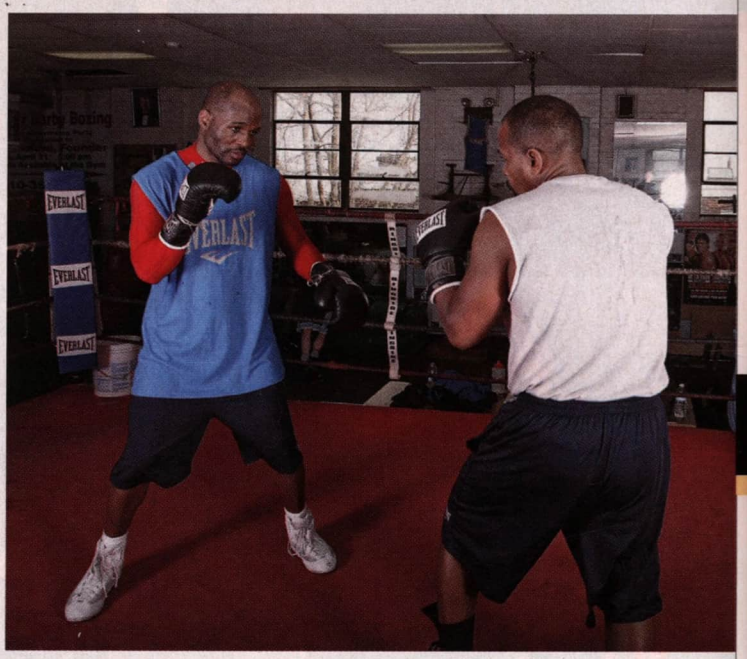
YOU SEE FIGHTERS DO THIS ALL THE TIME, ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY'RE IN TROUBLE. Why? Because it works. You get in close and wrap your opponent's arms up the way I'm doing here, keep your head to the side, and walk him around a little, away from the referee if you can. In the pros, you can get away with this a lot; most referees won't take points unless your opponent makes it very clear he doesn't want to be held. Most won't do it. They'll let you hold. Take advantage of it.

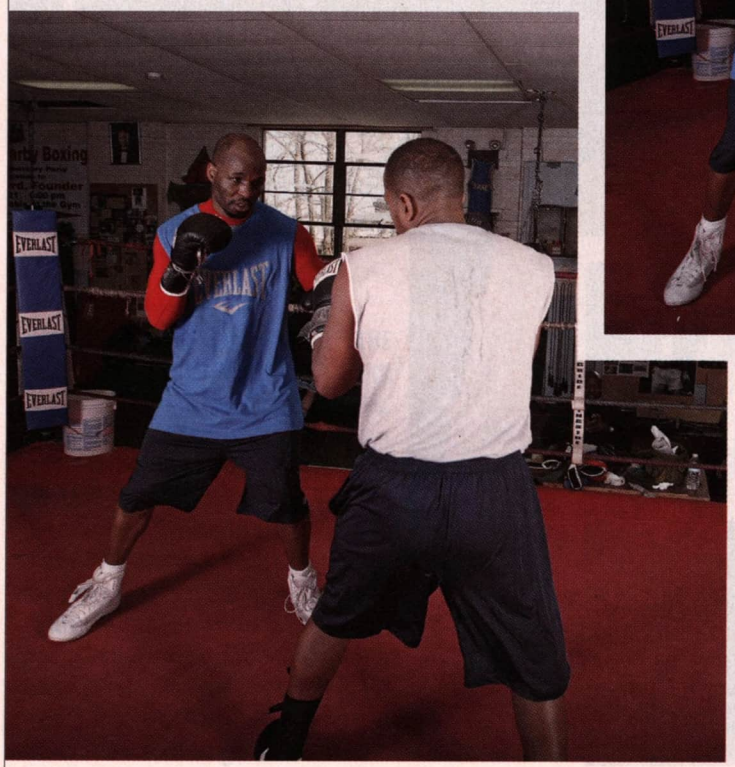
GO DEFENSIVE AND STAY THAT WAY

IF YOU'RE INJURED, DIZZY, OR WINDED, THE LAST THING YOU WANT TO DO IS THROW PUNCHES. You're just opening yourself up. So until you can get your head together or get back to the corner, go strictly on defense, but do it right. Get your distance right; stay close. Your opponent will probably want you outside so he can get you on the end of his punches. Stay in close and use every defensive technique you've learned to get yourself some time. And stay calm.



USE THE RING!



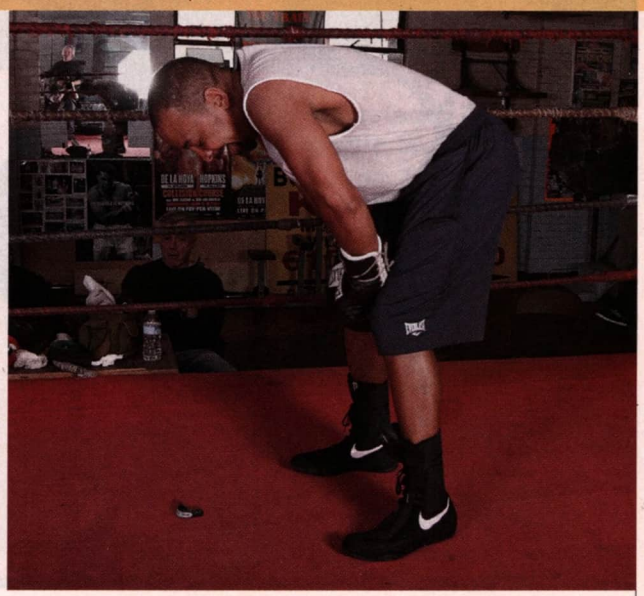


WE SAID EARLIER THAT TO GET SOME TIME YOU CAN GET CLOSE AND GO DEFENSIVE. But if you're a mover and faster than your opponent, get on your horse and use those legs. There's nothing wrong with using the whole ring to create distance and buy yourself time. A ring can be a big place when you use every inch of it. Just remember—don't pull straight back. Circle and move side to side.

THE WRONG WAY

THE WORST THING YOU CAN DO TO TRY TO GET A BREATHER OR RECOVER IS TO LAY ON THE ROPES AND COVER UP. It seems like the right thing to do; it uses less energy than anything else you can do in the ring. But a fighter who is hurt, tired, or injured who goes to the ropes like this is a minute away from getting stopped. It's like waving the white flag.

LOSE THE MOUTHPIECE



IF NOTHING ELSE WORKS, THERE IS ONE THING LEFT TO DO: LOSE THE MOUTHPIECE. The action will stop, the referee will stop the clock, pick up the mouthpiece, take it to a corner, have it rinsed off, put your opponent in a neutral corner, have your mouthpiece put back in, then finally start the clock again. That gives you a lot of time, and, if you just do it once, you won't get points deducted.

By Michael Rivest
PHOTOS BY BOB RYDER

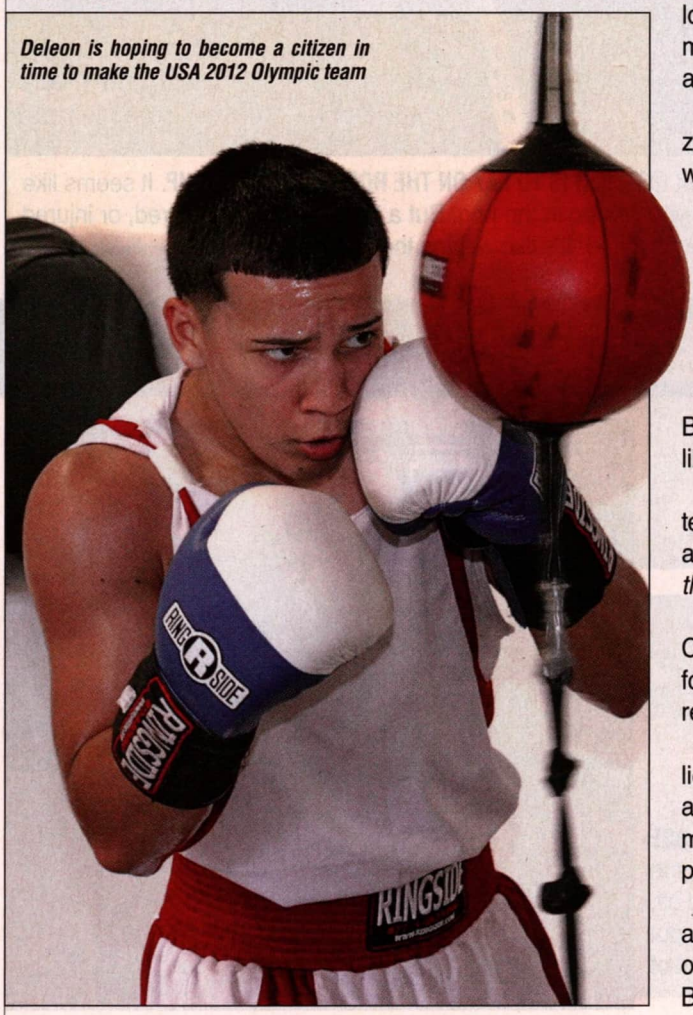
Fighting For Citizenship And Olympic Gold

First, many around him think he should turn pro and not after the 2012 London Games either, but right now. And by "many" we don't mean his admiring, teenage acolytes at Detroit's Lincoln Park High School where he is a senior, but insiders like his own trainer, Angel Caraballo, and Emanuel Steward who has more than once called Deleon "the next Oscar De La Hoya."

When you're only 18-years old, voices like theirs could feel like real heat.

Still, Deleon is cool.

"I've decided to wait until after the 2012 Olympics, and I know they'll support me 100 percent," he said. "These people all care about me and, deep down, I know they want for me whatever I want for myself."



Deleon is hoping to become a citizen in time to make the USA 2012 Olympic team

All 18-year olds should have it so good. But people can't be blamed for thinking big about Deleon.

"Besides winning just about every major amateur tournament there is to win," noted Steward, "Erick's just received the Kronk Gym's Outstanding Boxer of the Year Award for a third time. Nobody's ever done that."

At 132 pounds, his name is already a complete sentence for many, answering their questions about the best US amateur future world champion.

But a less forgiving pressure has been bearing down on Deleon lately. The International Olympic Committee requires all competing athletes be citizens of the countries they seek to represent. Eleven years ago, Luciano and Mirtha Deleon left northern Mexico with their four young children in tow, looking for a new life in America. But only recently has formal citizenship for one of them moved off the back burner and into the fire.

Deleon has until the end of this year to become a US citizen. After that, he will have to wait until the 2016 Games, which may as well be the 3016 Games as far as he's concerned. It's now or never. People are supporting a fast-tracked approval of his application, but the nervous clock-watching continues—except for Deleon himself, it seems. "I'm not worried," he said, "It'll happen."

There's a sense of serenity about Deleon, both inside and outside the ring, which is a little disarming, coming from someone barely old enough to drive a car at night. Between the ropes, he's remarkably focused and methodical, like he knows his own power—and he *does* have power.

"His punches aren't pitter-patter like you see in the amateurs," said Steward, alluding to the fact that in amateur boxing, a scoring blow has nothing to do with how hard it lands, only *that* it lands. But Deleon bangs.

"The kid is a great fighter with power in both hands," said Cornelius Lock, the Detroit-based pro who relies on Deleon for sparring. "He's no amateur, believe me. He's real good, a real professional in there already."

Lock wanted Deleon to come to Las Vegas with him earlier this year to help him get ready for his May 1, 2010, bout against Daniel Ponce De Leon. But he was making the same mistake everybody does, which is to forget that his sparring partner is still in school.

Outside the ring, Deleon is just as composed and self-assured. "He has the innocent personality but the confidence of a champion," said Lenroy Thompson, two-time USA Boxing national super heavyweight champion. Thompson

traveled with Deleon this year as part of the US National Team. "Few boxers are loved by everyone … Deleon is one of those. He's just a great kid."

"I feel like God put me here to do what I'm doing," Deleon said. "It's not that I'm that religious or anything, because I'm really not. I just know that when I win, I'm fulfilling my destiny."

When somebody is wired that way, he doesn't have to be dragged to the gym to train and he doesn't have to take a year off to go find himself.

"He's always known what he wanted," said Rene Muniz who, along with Sergio Garcia, was Deleon's first trainer. "The first day he walked into the gym at eight-years old, he said 'I want to be a world champion.'"

But doesn't every other kid in the place say the same thing?

"The difference is that unlike kids who just say that because they're kids, he never changed," said Muniz. "From that first day on, he didn't miss one day in the gym, not one. And he was always the first one to show up and the last one to leave."

"It actually goes back further than those days," Deleon said, laughing. "My earliest memories are of waiting for my father to get home from work. I used to make him hold up his hands and I would punch them."

Deleon stayed with Muniz and Garcia until a gym closing resulted in his going with Caraballo when he was 12.

Staying amateur and going for Olympic gold is something his Dad, Muniz, and Garcia want him to do. "We all think, given his young age, he ought to wait," said Garcia.

But don't get the wrong idea, Caraballo and Steward's different opinion is also driven by what they feel is in Deleon's best interest. "A lot can happen in two years," Steward said. "He could get hurt."

That's exactly what did happened to Caraballo, who arrived at the same crossroads as Deleon in the early-1980s, after going 47-0 as an amateur in his native Puerto Rico.

"I chose to wait and go for the 1984 LA Games but got hurt along the way, and it all ended right there," said Caraballo.

No one ever knows what the future holds, but if we're talking destiny, well, that's something else. It says the future has already been decided; the rest is just details. Deleon says there is a plan unfolding before our eyes right now, and it's got the word "champion" all over it.

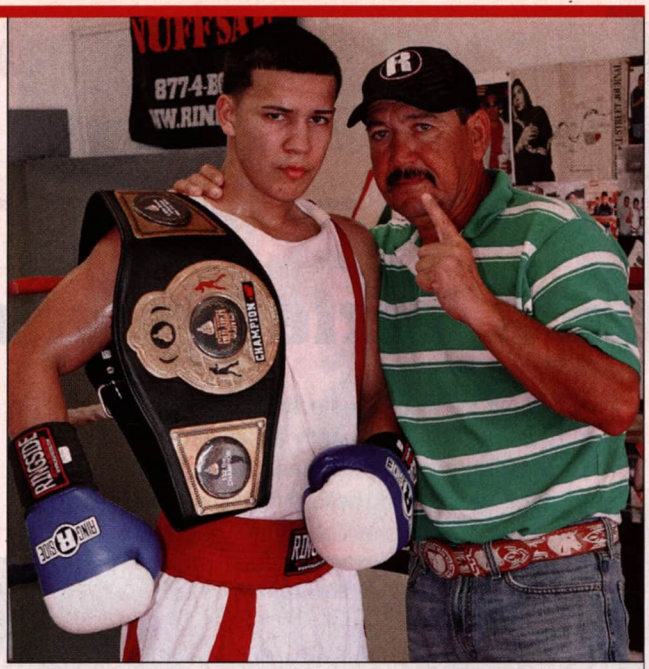
Like Father, Like Son

If you ever get to see Erick Deleon in the ring, pay attention to when trainer Angel Caraballo talks to him between rounds. Odds are Deleon will be looking at someone else. Make no mistake, he's listening to Caraballo, all right, the trainer he said is "one of the best in the world."

But his eyes are often on the other man in the corner—almost as if he's getting something that he needs there just as much, albeit non-verbal.

"It's my Dad," Deleon said.

Luciano Deleon has been his son's primary inspiration from the very beginning. His earliest memories are about listening to stories of a lifelong love of the sport and of the old days in Mexico and of his father's boxing hero, Julio Cesar Chavez.



Deleon inherited his love of boxing from his father, Luciano

"I've loved boxing since my childhood," Luciano said, with Erick providing the translation. "Although I never boxed formally, but my older brother had a horse and kept a pair of boxing gloves in the saddle. We would fight anybody who wanted to try us.

"Erick would watch boxing on TV with me," said Luciano, "and hear me talking about it. I suppose that's how it all started."

"My Dad is the one who's always been there for me, more than anyone. I'm lucky to have lots of people around me that I trust, but there is nobody like him," the young Deleon said. "When I look at him between rounds, we don't need words." ■

Michael Rivest can be contacted at mrivest2@gmail.com

2010 USA Boxing National Championships Results

July 17, 2010, Colorado Springs, Colorado
Men and Women's Olympic Weight Classes

112 pounds: Marlen Esparza, TX, dec. Tyriesha Douglas, MD
132 pounds: Queen Underwood, WA, dec. Patricia Manuel, CA
165 pounds: Tiffanie Hearn, KY, dec. Lisbet Vargas, OR
108 pounds: Louie Byrd, CO, dec. Diego Hurtado, NV
114 pounds: Rau'shee Warren, OH, TKO 2 Miguel Cartegena, PA
123 pounds: Joseph Diaz Jr., CA, dec. Ricky Rodriguez, CO
132 pounds: Jose Ramirez, CA, dec. Eric Flores, CA
141 pounds: Pedro Sosa, NY, dec. Michael Reed, MA
152 pounds: Errol Spence, TX, dec. Alex Martin, IL
165 pounds: Luis Arias, WI, dec. Jesse Hart, MI
178 pounds: Jeffrey Spencer, CO, dec. Robert Brant, MN
201 pounds: Steve Geffard, FL, dec. Sijuola Shabazz, NM
201+ pounds: Lenroy Thompson, KS, dec. Danny Kelly, DC

By Margaret Goodman, M.D.

In A Perfect World....

As someone who repeatedly critiques the current state of boxing, I am frequently asked what improvements regarding ringside medicine I would ike to see. I don't expect perfection, but I do believe that small *no-cost* changes might improve boxer protection.

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

More time should be given doctors to examine fighters before weigh-ins

Practical (Hands-On) Physician Training: All too often, physicians become ring doctors by just handing in an application and a valid medical license. There are no specialty courses in medical school or residency that prepare one to work a fight. Yet, the repercussions of an inadequately trained ring doctor are frightening. Most jurisdictions have no training programs, and few doctors are willing to do the job. As a result, physicians are hired when they know little about the sport, what a fighter does in training, and how to determine when a boxer has taken enough punishment.

In-Depth Prefight Exams: Few outsiders are privy to boxer prefight exams. Typically, they are conducted right before the fighter steps on the weigh-in scale. From a logistical standpoint, the timing makes perfect sense. But, it is hurried, and even the most thorough physician may have little more than five minutes with an athlete—and usually a lot less. In an emergency room, the physician sizes up a patient's chief complaint in that same time. To determine a boxer's health is much more complicated. Fighters are used to competing with aches and pains and often don't know which symptoms could have serious consequences. The prefight exam may be the only time the ring doctor has ever met the boxer. It can be life-saving to know how he walks and talks, so that it can be used for comparison if he has absorbed too many right hands. The time for these examinations should be tripled.

Lengthier Postfight Examinations: Following a bout, boxers are too excited to complain of pain. Postfight exams can last less than a minute, unless the fighter has an obvious injury. The physician may barely ask questions or touch the fighter, let alone determine if he has any neurological deficits that require transportation to a hospital. There are frequently not enough doctors at an event, and the same ones conducting the post-fight exams need to return ringside as the next bout is starting. Either commissions need to assign more doctors or increase the time between bouts so the fighters can be examined in detail. One great thing Nevada

added a couple years ago was requiring the doctors to go into the ring following every bout and briefly check the winner and loser. The only problem is this is usually no more than a slap on the butt or asking the athlete, "Are you okay?" If he nods favorably, exam over!

Longer Medical Suspensions: One reason a talented fighter has a bad performance is he did not take off sufficient time between bouts. Rest is as important as a good training regimen and healthy diet. A boxer who fights a tough bout may look great after the fight—perhaps be a bit tired. But, the ravages of this sport are great and not always obvious until it is too late. Even if a boxer shows no signs of visible injury, hard training and absorbing punishment necessitates rest for his body and his brain. Doctors too often give little, if any, suspensions. As a result, a fighter gets right back in the gym, spars, and suffers unneeded added trauma reflected in their next fight and a shortened career.

More Interaction Between Physicians And Referees: I believe a ring physician needs to be seen little and heard even less. However, their presence is much more than waiting for a knockout. Referees and physicians need training with one another, so that when events occur during a fight, they can instantly communicate from 20-feet away. Nevada's Joe Cortez remains a master at this. In between rounds, he will always glance at the ringside physician seated close to the fighter's corner to gauge his or her concern. They must work as a team in determining the right course of action. This can be second nature to a few refs and docs, but for most, it needs to be taught.

Stop Assigning Bad Physicians And Referees: This should be a no-brainer. If a physician or referee has demonstrated they don't have good judgment as to when a boxer is hurt, they should not be used. Being a great official is an art. Yes, it takes practice and good training. But, most importantly, it is a gift. Instead, many commissions will assign these folks to four-rounders or less high-profile bouts. Do club show and undercard athletes deserve incompetent officials?

Commissioners That Understand Boxing: Yes, commissioners are appointed by the governor, but they need to be more than boxing fans—and many are not. No, they don't have to have been a ring official, but they must understand they are there solely for the health and welfare of the fighters. Nothing else is a close second—including collecting tax money for their state. Commissioners need to speak with fighters at the weigh-in and after a fight and attend courses with officials. Nevada commissioner Bill Brady did just that. He is a successful businessman who had the insight to know the importance of his job. He attended every fight, talked to the fighters, and studied the sport. Nevada has been lucky to have him.

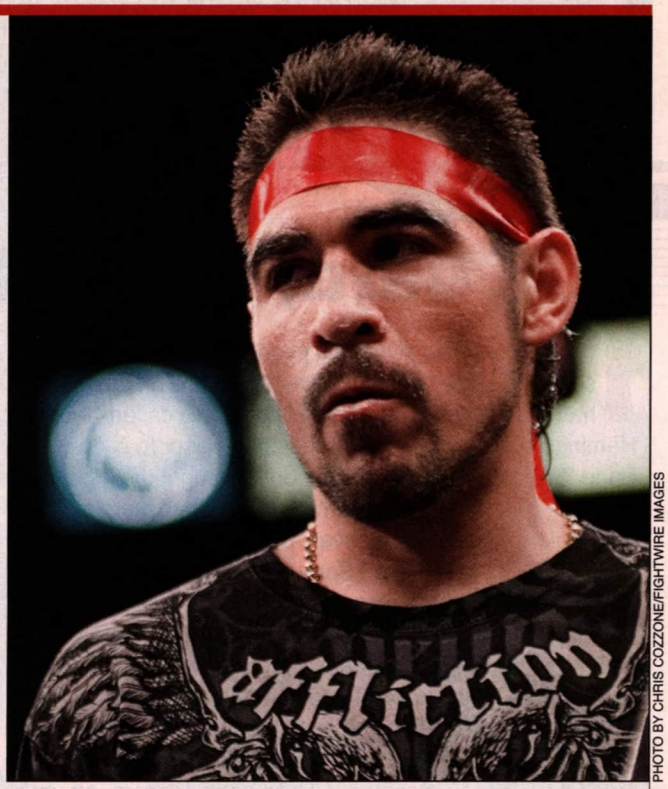


PHOTO BY CHRIS COZZONE/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Nevada State Athletic Commission did the right thing in shelving Margarito's application for a boxing license

Less Pressure On Ringside Physicians: Although no job is as pressure-filled as that of a boxing referee, the job of a ring physician runs a close second. Doctors are afraid to stop a fight for fear they will be ridiculed in the press; condemned by a promoter, the fighter, his trainer; or they may be blackballed from ever working that fighter's cards again. Some will say that isn't true, but for many, it sits in the back of their minds. Hopefully, it never influences a decision. It is a fact of life, but one that shouldn't exist in order for a doctor to always do the right thing.

At a recent Nevada State Athletic Commission hearing, they were asked to render a decision on licensing Antonio Margarito. Following his loss to Shane Mosley, Margarito had his license revoked by the California State Athletic Commission in 2009 for using illegal hand-wraps that contained a plaster-like substance.

The commission *correctly* determined, via a conference call, that Margarito must *first* reapply in California.

California revoked the fighter's license. So, it is appropriate that the boxer return to that jurisdiction to request reinstatement. If the revocation had been for medical reasons, then according to federal law, only the state that handed out the revocation should have been the adjudicator.

For non-medical issues, another commission may hear the fighter's request. But Nevada did the right thing. If they had granted Margarito a license under these circumstances then it would have been supporting jurisdiction shopping by a promoter to evade regulations, and it would have sent the wrong message. ■

By Jim Bagg

One Card, Two Chavez Juniors

It ain't easy being given that pesky label, "the next so-and-so." Ever since he first started writing, the Baggelhoff has had to deal with the pressure of being called "the next Hemingway." You may recall that some people called Greg Page "the next Ali," but he apparently thought they meant Ali McGraw and decided to grow boobs. And then there's Rachel Codrington, who wakes up every day knowing she'll someday be "the next ex-Mrs. Bagg." Sorry, Carl Froch, it's the truth. But you can have her back when the Baggtastic is done with her.

Since very early in his pro career, Marco Antonio Barrera has heard those three words every promising Mexican fighter dreads, "the next Chavez." As soon as the great Julio Cesar Chavez suffered his first loss in 1994, the search was on for a fighter from his homeland who could carry the baton once "The Lion Of Culiacan" relocated to Culia-can't. Barrera, an undefeated rising star at the time, was the first of several fighters to get slapped with that "next Chavez" tag. And Barrera didn't do too badly with that albatross around his neck. His career wasn't so extraordinary that it surpassed that of Chavez, but you could make a case that MAB did indeed turn out to be the best fighter from Me-hee-co over the last 15 years.

Unfortunately, being branded "the next Chavez" isn't always a compliment—especially when you think of it in terms of the current Barrera. On June 26, Barrera fought in the co-feature on a pay-per-view card headlined by none other than Julio Cesar Chavez Jr., who, if you're into literal interpretations, is as "next Julio Cesar Chavez" as it gets. Just a few minutes after Barrera left the ring following his 10-round unanimous decision win over Adailton DeJesus, Chavez Sr. walked into the ring with Chavez Jr., aligning Chavezes past, present, next, last, etc., all along the same walkway at the Alamodome. Once, Barrera's fans hoped that he could follow in the footsteps of "J.C. Super-

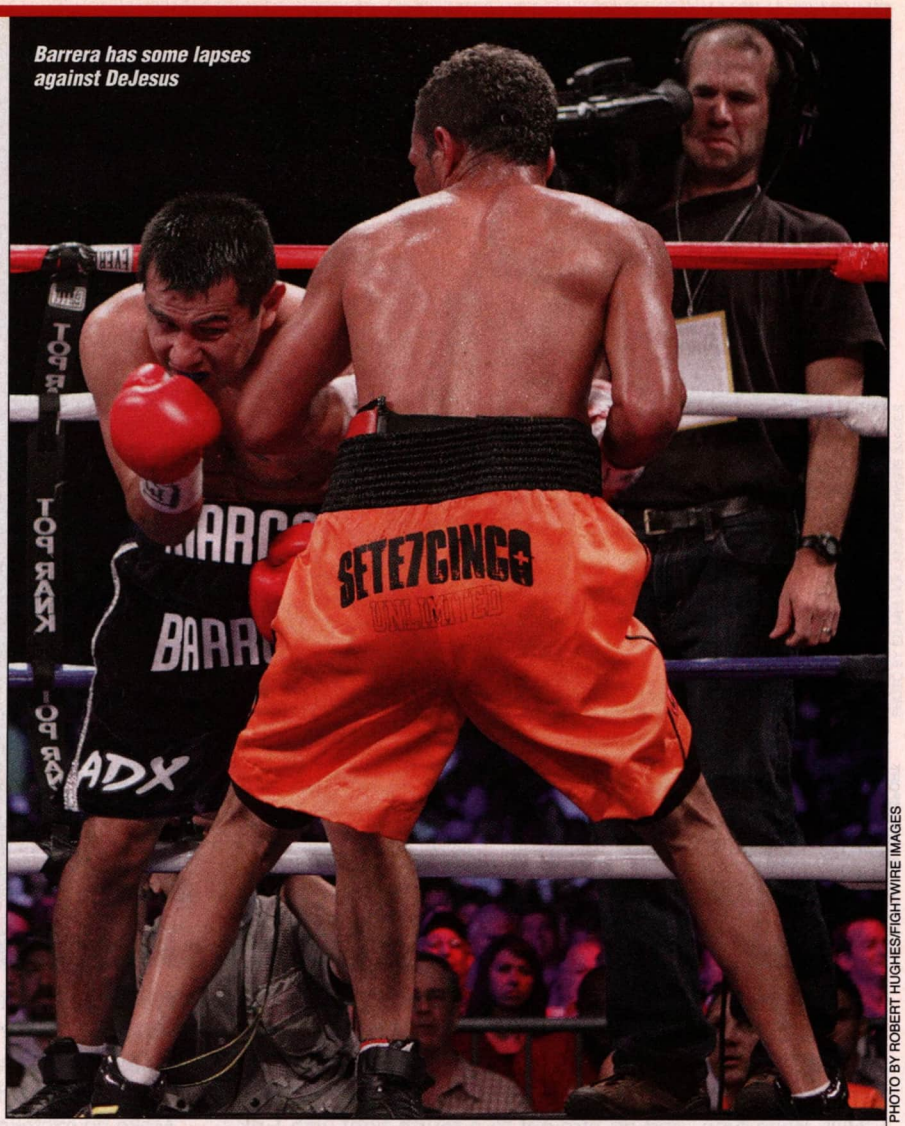
Barrera isn't as spry as he used to be, but still good enough to beat journeymen like DeJesus

PHOTO BY ROBERT HUGHES/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

star." Now, they pray that he turns his feet and walks in the opposite direction.

That's because the 36-year-old Barrera is precisely at the point now where Chavez was in the late-1990s: still good enough to beat the journeymen (like DeJesus), not good enough to beat real contenders, and a little jiggly around the middle and fighting a weight division (or two) above where he belongs. Thus far in his 21-year, 74-fight pro career, Barrera has avoided that depressing moment where he loses in embarrassing fashion to a truly mediocre fighter. Barrera's losses have come against Junior Jones (not a legend, but certainly a world-class fighter in his prime), Erik Morales, Manny Pacquiao, Juan Manuel Marquez, and Amir Khan (not a legend yet, but another world-class talent). There's nothing to be ashamed of on that resume.

But you could have said the same of Chavez Sr. until the night of October 2, 1999. That evening, a chubby old man who'd trained on chimichangas and churros got battered around the ring for 10 rounds by a journeyman named Willy Wise who was riding a three-fight losing streak. It was a sad day for Chavez' fans, who realized round by round that the jig was up. (The only person who didn't realize it was Jose Sulaiman, who decided Chavez should still be Kostya Tszyu's mandatory challenger despite losing to Wise. But then again, Sulaiman wouldn't realize Pam Anderson's breasts are fake even if one popped in his face and El Presidente took a saline shower.)



Barrera has some lapses against DeJesus

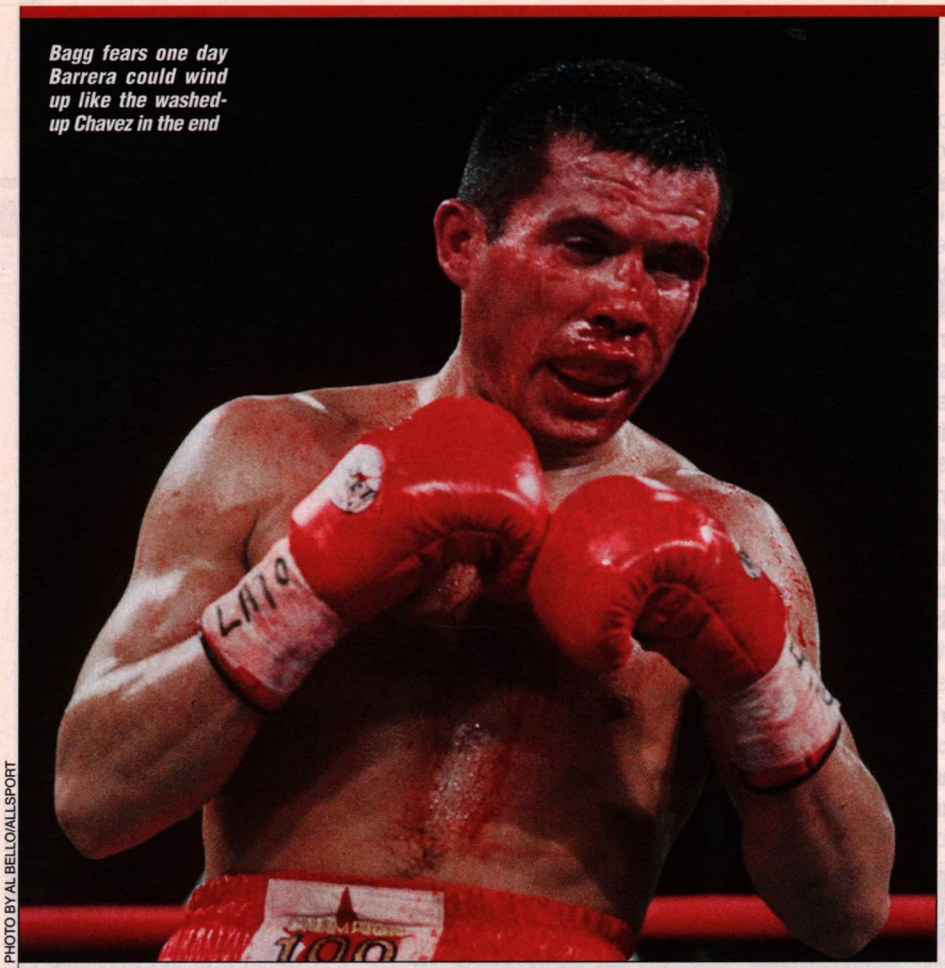
PHOTO BY ROBERT HUGHES/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Thankfully, Barrera hasn't had his Willy Wise moment yet. But if he sticks around much longer, he will. If he keeps fighting, he'll be the next Chavez in the worst way possible, and it's only a matter of time until he meets both his Willy Wise and his Grover Wiley. (Come on, Chavez, did you really have to hang around so far beyond your sell-by date that guys with Sesame Street monster names were beating you? Had Chavez waited any longer to retire, a defeat to Snuffaluffagus Jones was right around the corner.)

Against DeJesus, Barrera looked decent enough. But Jimbo Antonio Baggrera saw all the signs of a guy who was lucky to have a clubfighter in front of him. Barrera's quick counterpunching reflexes, once a staple of his game, were gone. The skill and versatility that allowed him to overcome the Jones setbacks and reinvent himself were sorely lacking. Barrera basically had one gear: moving forward, cranking up left hooks. That one gear was all he needed against DeJesus, a guy who was just 2-4 against his last six opponents with winning records. But it wouldn't be enough against a RING-rated junior welterweight or lightweight (such as, say, Khan, who won almost every second of every round against a bloody Barrera in the Mexican veteran's previous fight).

According to Barrera's people, his plan is to fight for one more alphabet title in hopes of becoming the first Mexican fighter to win belts in four divisions. This might just be the stupidest plan since Sulaiman's dad decided to take his chances on not wearing a condom.

There are two main reasons that pursuing an alphabet title is an awful idea for Barrera. One is that he's all but guaranteed a beating against a younger fighter like Humberto Soto or Miguel Acosta, the two opponents he's targeting, who—coincidence alert!—are the two titlists in this weight neighborhood promoted by Barrera's current promoter, Bob Arum. And the second reason is that he's chasing empty history. Alphabet titles don't mean anything to real fight fans anymore. Once Manuel Medina had racked up enough title reigns to claim to stack up statistically with Sugar Ray Robinson, it was officially the end of the ruse. There are so many titlists, interim titlists, super titlists, and silver titlists nowadays that half of them aren't even ranked in THE RING top 10 anymore. Marco,



Bagg fears one day Barrera could wind up like the washed-up Chavez in the end

PHOTO BY AL BELLO/ALLSPORT

your legacy is secure, and adding an expensive piece of junk to wear around your waist won't enhance it in the least.

Direct from Baggrera to Barrera, here's what the plan should be: Skip past any more tuneups, lest you lose to a Willy Wise type, and go straight to a fourth fight with Erik Morales. One more bout between these rivals would be relatively safe, in that they're both faded to about the same degree, and it would earn them both a better payday than they could find anywhere else. Then Barrera should go ahead and retire without completing a repeat performance in the 2010s of the sad decline of Chavez that we witnessed in the 2000s.

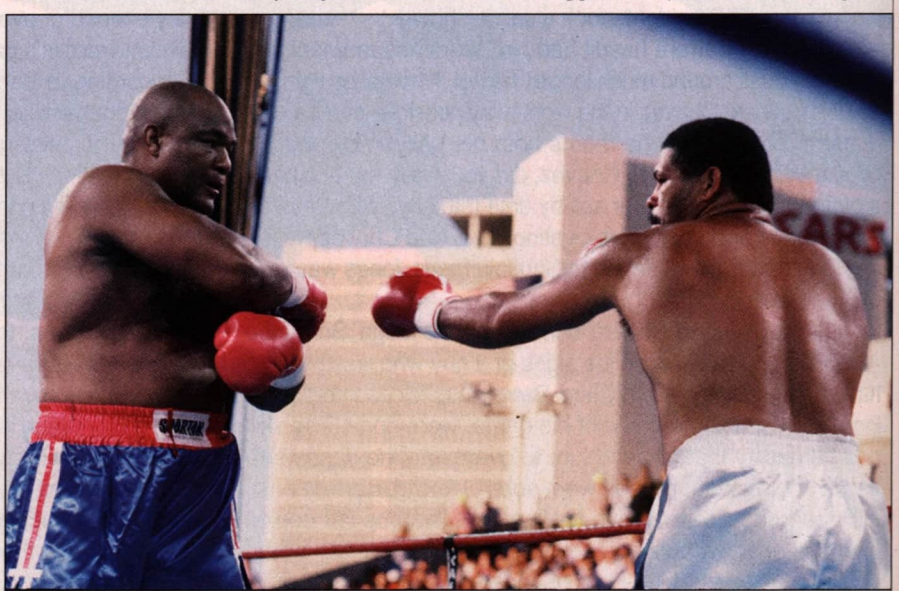
Since turning pro at age 15, Barrera has been known as "The Baby-Faced Assassin." Remarkably, that face still looks relatively youthful. But his body doesn't. He fights the way you'd expect a 36-year-old man with two decades in the sport to fight. Barrera is still competent. He's not a bad fighter or a totally shot fighter by any means. But he has a lot more in common nowadays with end-of-the-line Chavez than prime Chavez. So he should follow the Baggmeister's plan: Fight Morales and get the hell out. That's advice worth listening to. After all, it's coming straight from the keyboard of the next Hemingway.

Over-Praising The Undercard

You know that famous Chris Rock routine with the line "You're supposed to take care of your kids!" in reference to fathers who brag about the fact that they haven't abandoned their children? That's exactly how the Baggareeno feels about the undercard that was put together for the Juan Manuel Marquez-Juan Diaz II pay-per-view (which will have happened by the time you read this, but that's irrelevant to the point President Obagga is trying to make).

The folks at Golden Boy Promotions are doing backflips over the undercard they put together, and the sheep in the media are congratulating them on giving something back to the fans, but you know what? They're *supposed* to put halfway decent fights on the undercard! They're *supposed* to make fights people want to see! Since when is it a gift from the heavens if we get two evenly matched world-class fighters in the ring together? Have boxing fans really been that beaten down?

Make no mistake, this is a quality undercard on paper (and a quality main event, as the Baggaroo explained in the August



Good undercards featuring fighters like George Foreman vs. Adilson Rodriguez were once the norm

The Monthly Mailbagg

It's been a sweltering summer in Baggville, and there's only one sure method for beating the heat: Drink your Jack Daniel's on the rocks. If you drink enough, the reader mail you receive might even start to seem intelligent.

What is up with Bernard Hopkins? I mean, does this guy have compromising photos of THE RING'S editors or what? How on earth is B-Hop still on the pound-for-pound list, much less number six on said list? His last quality win was like 400 years ago against what we now know to be a vastly overrated Kelly Pavlik. I know Bernard is a future Hall of Famer, but come on Baggs, a current pound-for-pounder? No way.

James Factor

PHOTO BY ED MULHOLLAND/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Reader James Factor wonders if Hopkins possessed compromising photos

James,

As it so happens, between the time you sent in this e-mail and the time this Mailbagg was compiled, B-Hop was removed from the pound-for-pound list. But that doesn't really matter. Your point is still worth addressing, because it's true that Hopkins was on the list until very recently. So to answer your question, yes, "The Executioner" has compromising photos of THE RING'S editors. There's one of Nigel Collins wearing a pink beret, tassels on his nipples, and nothing else, and there's another one of Joe Santoliquito performing unspeakable acts in a threesome with Harold Lederman and Julie Lederman. It's disturbing on a number of levels.

However, shortly after Hopkins defeated Roy Jones, Collins went public about his questionable fashion sense, and Santoliquito and the Ledermans stopped living a lie and opened up to the press about their inbred tryst. So now Hopkins has no blackmail material, and he's been removed from the pound-for-pound list, simple as that.

There, now you know how THE RING rankings work. Ask any further questions, and we'll run the compromising photos next issue. And believe the Baggarama, the nightmares won't be easy to shake once you've had these images burned into your brain.

issue). Jorge Linares vs. Rocky Juarez is an intriguing matchup between a once-beaten prospect with a high ceiling and a fading former prospect looking to make one last run. Robert Guerrero vs. Joel Casamayor might turn out to be a mismatch in "The Ghost's" favor, but if Casamayor has a little more left than we think, it could be a classic veteran's last stand. And Danny Jacobs vs. Dmitry Pirog may represent everything that's wrong with alphabet titles, but it's still a first-rate pairing of unbeaten prospects. None of these fights are HBO headliners, but all three could legitimately qualify for an opening slot on *Boxing After Dark*.

And that just happens to be what pay-per-view undercards are supposed to look like. In fact, 10 or 15 years ago, that's exactly what they all *did* look like. Good for everyone involved for putting these fights together, and you'd better believe the Baggarific is breaking open his piggy bank for this one, but before we all hurt our hands slapping people on the back, let's wait for some of boxing's power brokers to put together an undercard like this the next time the main event is so strong that they don't need a first-rate undercard to generate PPV buys. Because until the Baggasaurus sees otherwise, he's assuming it's back to the Wes Fergusons of the world if Manny Pacquiao vs. Floyd Mayweather ever gets made.

And The Stingray Goes To ...

Nicolai Firtha, a journeyman heavyweight who Firtha'd his cause with a stunning second-round TKO over Tony Grano at Mohegan Sun in late-June. Grano was 17-1-1 (13) coming in, whereas Firtha, a 6'6", 250-pounder from Akron, Ohio, brought a modest record of 17-7-1 (6), including three losses in his previous four fights. But "The Stone Man"—one of those highly unimaginative nicknames that's kinda cool anyway—caught Grano with a right hand of stone late in the first round, dropping the favored fighter to the canvas. Firtha then opened round two with a barrage against the ropes and forced the stoppage.

While most Akron sports enthusiasts spent all summer on LeBron watch, Firtha provided a welcome momentary distraction. For his wipeout of Grano, he earns a Stingray. And at 6'6", maybe he'll even earn the attention of the Cavs if they're looking to fill roster spots. ■

Jim Bagg can be reached at Baggmeister@yahoo.com.

[Come Out Writing]

Letters may be edited for reasons of space and clarity. Send your comments to Come Out Writing, THE RING, P.O. Box 114, Blue Bell, PA 19422.

Or e-mail letters to comeoutwriting@yahoo.com. E-mailed letters will include the writer's e-mail address unless a city and state of origin is provided.

Fan Favorite

I have always been a big Chris Arreola fan, and, after reading Ivan Goldman's interview with him in the September 2010 issue of THE RING, I like him even more. Over the last few years, Chris has consistently brought entertaining fights to the heavyweight division, more so than anyone else I can think of. In interviews, he comes across as a humble, everyday guy who appreciates his fans, in contrast to so many of today's rich, arrogant athletes from boxing and other sports in general.

The big knock on Chris has always been his weight. It's a legit concern, but, in his case, I don't know how much it really holds him back. I've watched several of his fights, was in attendance for his title shot against Vitali Klitschko, and I can't remember ever thinking he was gassed or that he wasn't fighting hard. I think Chris uses what he has and makes it work for him.

I've been calling for a fight between Chris and David Haye ever since Haye moved up to the heavyweight division. I think that durability would be the difference, with Chris weathering Haye's early assault and securing a late-round stoppage in a great fight.

RICK RACK
monstertruckglory@yahoo.com

Publisher, Not Promoter

I have a couple of things I would like to suggest:

- I love women's boxing and find it just as entertaining as men's boxing. Please start listing female ratings. It would also be nice to have RING women champions.
- Publish world amateur rankings.
- Sponsor boxing cards, especially amateur shows, and televise them.

MATTHEW SAWYERS
soyboysawyer@hotmailcom

Editor's note: While Mr. Sawyer's suggestions regarding women's boxing and amateur rankings are worthy of consideration, THE RING cannot get involved in promoting or sponsoring fights and maintain its journalistic independence, regardless of whether they are amateur or professional.

Contrasting Opinions

Despite being someone who has endured the wait at the DMV, the incompetence of high school administrators, and the refugee camp the county's hospital calls an "emergency room," myself and others owe a big thank you to the Nevada State Athletic Commission for tabling Antonio Margarito's request for a boxing license. Bureaucracy works! Who knew?

RICHARD ESCOTO
Monterey Park, CA

Why are you constantly at Margarito? Sure he made a mistake, but the guy can box. I feel we should let Margarito fight on and judge him then. Look at the state of Miguel Cotto after the Manny Pacquiao

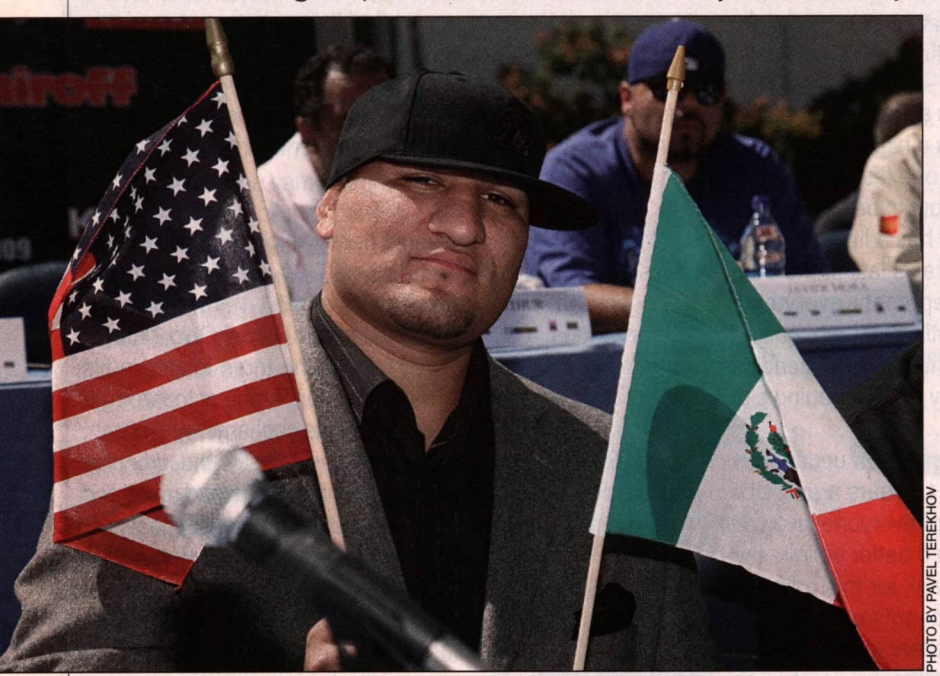


PHOTO BY PAVEL TEREKHOV

Despite a couple of losses in big fights, heavyweight Chris Arreola remains very popular with fans due to his fun-to-watch fighting style and down-to-earth personality. Reader Rick Rack is a big Arreola booster and would love to see him fight David Haye.

fight. Was Pac-Man using loaded gloves? I think not.

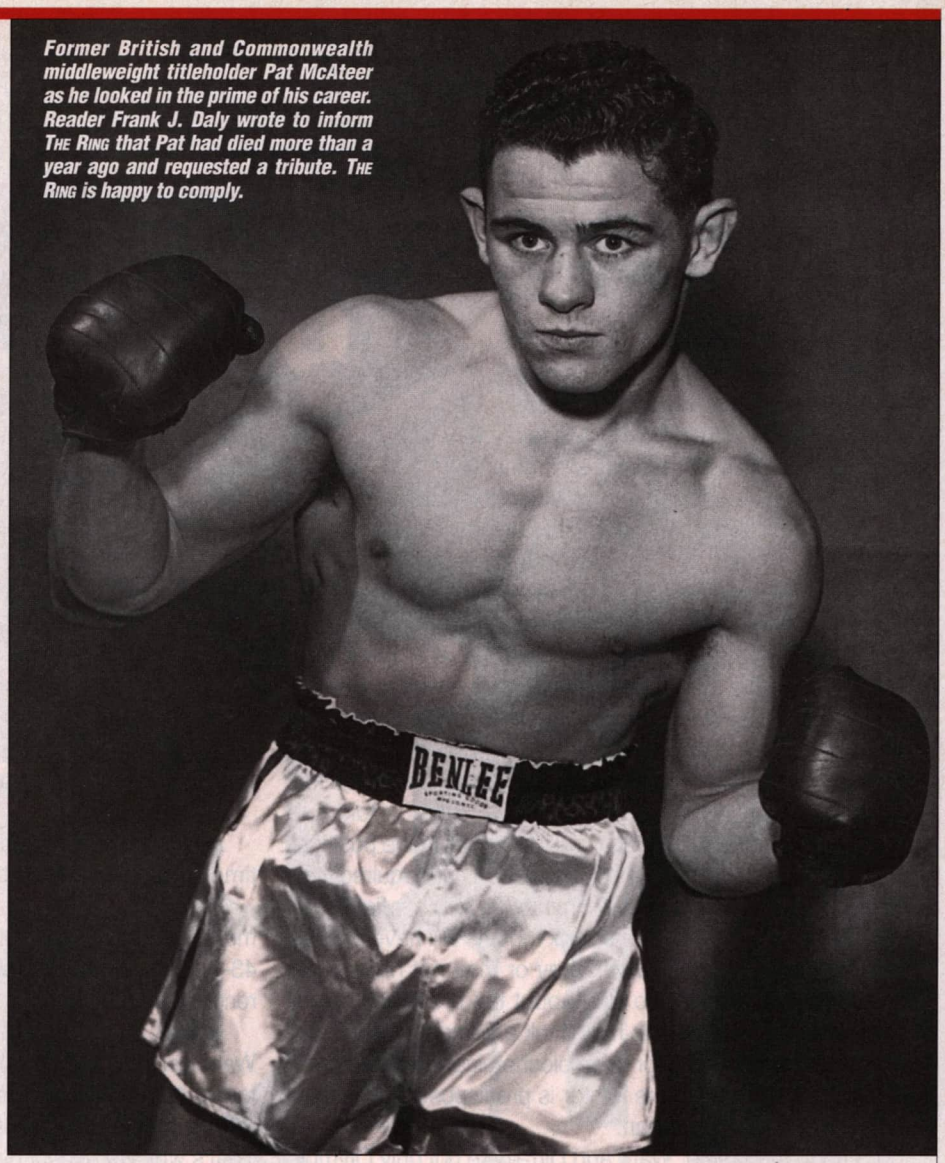
TIM LUCAS
tlgussydog@googlemail.com

Remembering Pat McAteer

I'm hoping that THE RING will be able to find space to make a tribute to Pat McAteer, who died on April 30, 2009. It would be greatly appreciated by his family and many friends in the boxing world.

FRANK J. DALY
Chandler, AZ

Editor's note: McAteer, from Liverpool, England, turned pro on September 11, 1952, and streaked to 40 consecutive victories, including a disqualification win over Johnny Sullivan in June '55 to capture the British and Commonwealth middleweight titles. TKO losses to Spider Webb and Charles Humez took McAteer out of the running for a world title shot, but he held the Commonwealth title until his second to last fight, when Dick Tiger knocked him out. McAteer retired in '58 with an overall record of 49-6-2 (24). He moved to the United States after retiring from the ring and was living in Virginia when he died at age 77.



Former British and Commonwealth middleweight titleholder Pat McAteer as he looked in the prime of his career. Reader Frank J. Daly wrote to inform THE RING that Pat had died more than a year ago and requested a tribute. THE RING is happy to comply.

Major Mistake

I've read recently on many boxing websites that Ross Greenburg, president of HBO Sports, has decided not to televise any more of the Klitschko brothers' fights on HBO. I find this to be a huge mistake on both Mr. Greenburg and the network's part. The heavyweight division has always been the driving force behind professional boxing. Apparently, Greenburg has forgotten that his own network has in the past shoved fights like Lennox Lewis-Zeljko Mavrovic down our throats. How about Lewis-Phil Jackson or Lewis against Frans Botha?

Lewis has been inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame, and rightfully so. I'm sure both Klitschko brothers will be as well. But for Greenburg to choose to ignore the heavyweight division altogether will only hurt the sport, not help it.

Should either Klitschko brother land a fight with David Haye, I hope K2 Promotions tells Greenburg to stuff it. And we, the real fans, can see the fight on Showtime, ESPN, or even an independent PPV card. It is the heavyweight championship of the world. It does matter. And I will watch it, regardless of how and where.

JOHN GARIBALDI
Toms River, NJ

In Praise Of The Quiet Man

I'm writing this letter in defense of John Ruiz. Everything people say about him—boring clinching style, limited boxing skills, lack of physical athletic gifts—are all true. Although I was one of many fight fans that did not particularly enjoy watching Ruiz, it was a style that worked for him. He used every single ounce of talent and ability he had to achieve what he achieved. If Ruiz had fought with an exciting style, he would not have gone far in his career. He would have ended up a punch-drunk journeyman. He may have had even less skills that Primo Carnera, but none of Ruiz' fights were ever fixed. So please stop hating on Ruiz, a limited fighter who strategically found a way to beat opponents who were much better than him.

J. GARCIA
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By Don Stradley

Buddies Will Part Ways For A Day

Andre Dirrell has to be hoping that the third time is a charm when he meets **Andre Ward** in the next round of Showtime's "Super Six World Boxing Classic" on September 25. In his previous tournament bouts, Dirrell came up short in a split-decision loss to **Carl Froch** and then found himself knocked out by an illegal blow from **Arthur Abraham**. Although Dirrell trumped Abraham by disqualification, the physical effect was that of a knockout loss. He was badly dazed for several minutes and spoke incoherently when being interviewed after the bout. Dirrell was given a clean bill of health after a visit to Detroit Receiving hospital, but it was still one of the more devastating "knockouts" we've seen in 2010.

"By definition, Dirrell suffered a concussion," Nevada's former chief ring physician, **Dr. Margaret Goodman**, told THE RING. "Even if there were no obvious symptoms at the postfight exam, he still had a Grade Three concussion and required time away from further head blows, in training or another fight."

By the time Dirrell faces Ward, six months will have passed since the Abraham bout, which may or may not have been enough time. "We know so little about the brain and how it responds to concussion. We may think a person is better. But on a cellular, microscopic or even biochemical level, the brain has not fully healed and the fighter is predisposed to another knockout," said Dr. Goodman.

To add to the drama, Ward and Dirrell are not only Olympic teammates from the 2004 Athens Games, but they're also good friends. Ward has said he is not looking forward to the bout, the site of which was undetermined as of press time. Dirrell, though, is taking a businessman's stance regarding the prospect of fighting his buddy.

"It's what we get paid to do," Dirrell told *The Flint Journal* in April. "We'll always be friends, but it's our profession. When you get in the ring, you just have to put all of that aside."

Dirrell, 19-1 (13) needs to win because a loss drops him closer to the bottom of the Super Six standings, which could lead to his elimination.

WBA titleholder Ward, 22-0 (13), faces some pressure too. One has to wonder how long he can maintain the level of perfection he's shown so far in the tournament. Dirrell's mobility could give Ward his most difficult bout of the tourney thus far. That is, unless the lingering effects of Abraham's sucker punch come into play. As Dr. Goodman told us, "Once a fighter is knocked out, he is more prone for a number of reasons. First and foremost is the psychological aspect. That is tough to surmount."

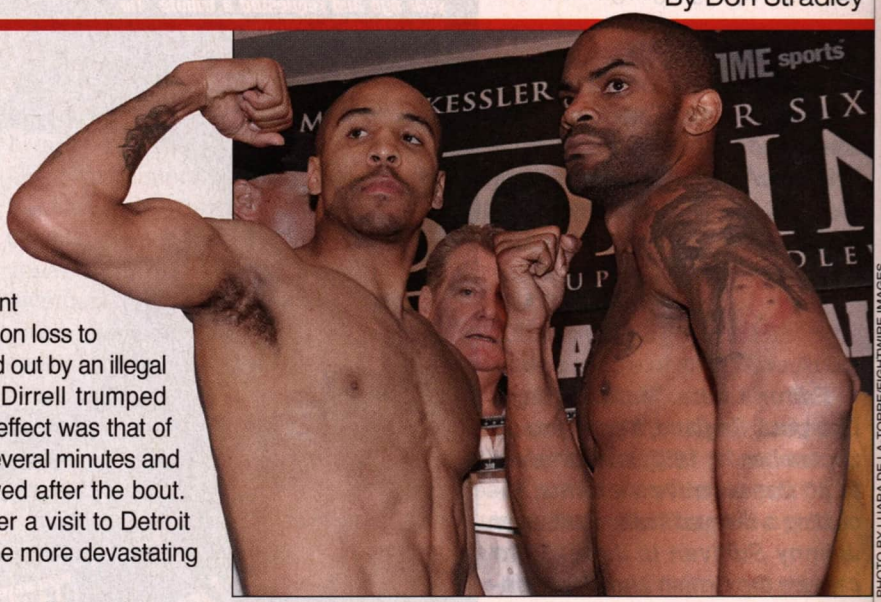


PHOTO BY LUARA DE LA-TORRE/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Both Ward and Green face tough foes in their next "Super Six" bouts

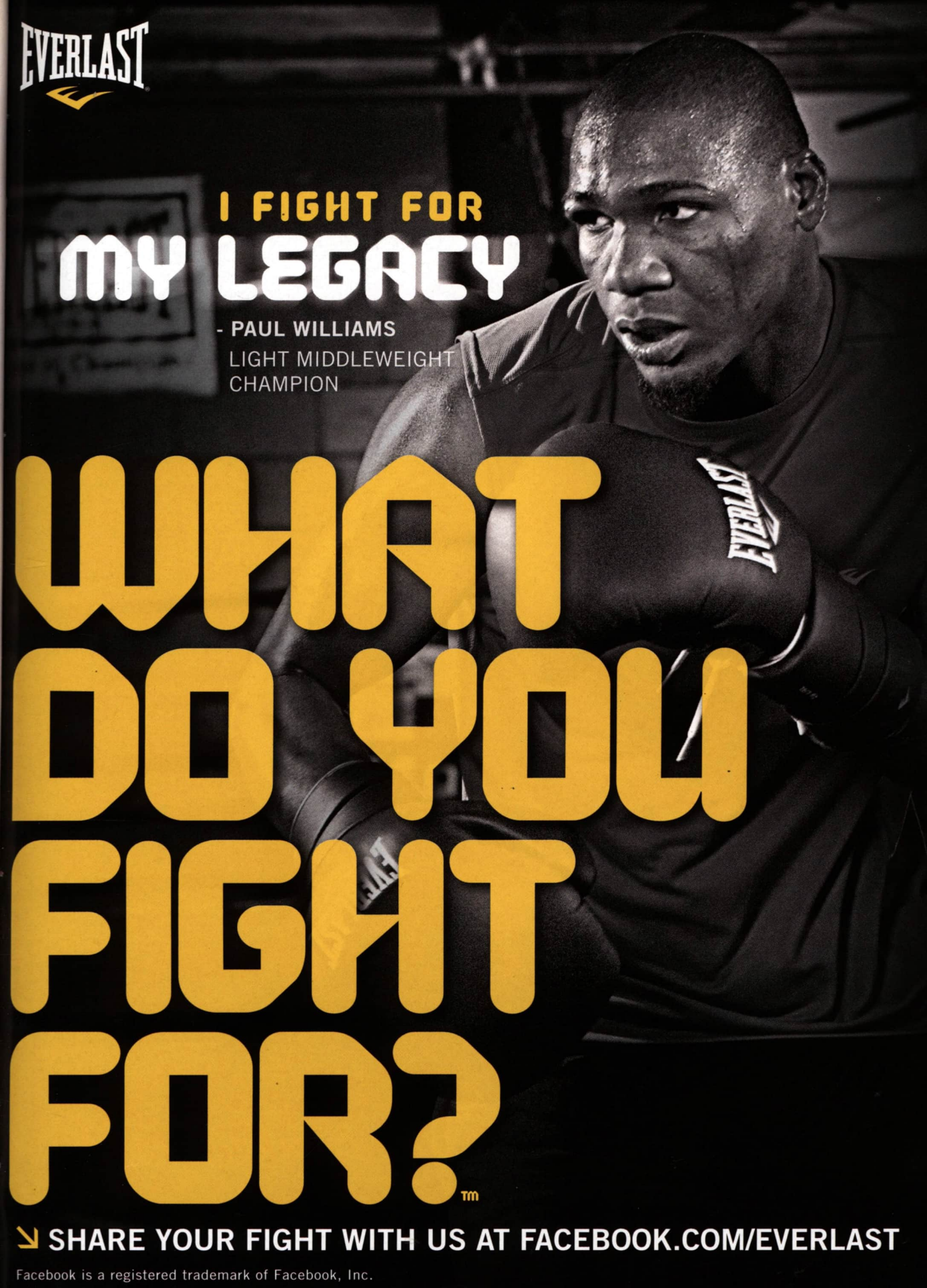
An excellent companion bout on the September 25 Showtime broadcast will feature previous Ward victims **Mikkel Kessler** and **Allan Green** fighting to improve their own tournament standings in Kessler's home country of Denmark. Kessler, 43-2 (32), will be defending the WBC 168-pound title he won recently from Froch.

Green, 29-2 (20), couldn't get his left hook working against Ward last June, but Kessler will provide him with a more hittable target. Also, Green will have a double incentive—a win not only revives his tournament chances but also earns him a title belt. That's why we expect Green to improve upon his non-performance against Ward.

And if Green loses, let's start referring to the tournament as the "Super Five."

Listen Up

Some folks winced when **Sam Peter** was named as **Alexander Povetkin**'s replacement to challenge heavyweight champion **Wladimir Klitschko**, but the first Klitschko-Peter bout was an interesting, somewhat controversial bout. The optimists among us hope the September 11 rematch in Germany will be just as good ... Cuban featherweight phenomenon and WBC titleholder **Yuriorkis Gamboa** will meet IBF featherweight titleholder **Orlando Salido** in a unification bout, also on September 11, in Las Vegas. ... "The Latin Snake," **Sergio Mora**, will face **Shane Mosley** on September 18 at The Staples Center in Los Angeles. Mosley is hoping to prove he's still marketable after his loss to **Floyd Mayweather** by taking on a much younger, heavier opponent. The bout will be presented as a Golden Boy Promotions pay-per-view. ■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